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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Concorde crash: A titanium strip that fell off a Continental Airlines jumbo jet onto a Paris runway was the main cause of the deadly crash of an Air France Concorde in 2000, judicial experts reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile, French prosecutors summoned top Continental executive Gordon Bethune and other officials for questioning in the probe of the July 25, 2000, crash outside Paris that killed 113 people, a lawyer for civil parties in the case said.

Judicial officials issued report Tuesday designed to help assess responsibility for the crash, meaning employees at Continental could face prosecution in France.

U.S. deserter: Villagers on the remote Japanese isle of Sado have warmly welcomed U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins since he arrived with his Japanese wife and their two North Korea-born daughters a week ago, his wife said Tuesday.

Jenkins moved to Sado to begin a new life in his wife's hometown last week after he finished serving a monthlong sentence in military prison for abandoning his Army post and defecting to North Korea in 1965.

His wife, Hitomi Soga, said Jenkins ventured out Tuesday evening to meet the students at a nearby English language school. "They welcomed him warmly. He was delighted," Soga said. "They welcomed him warmly. He was delighted."

Malaysia floods: Malaysia's worst flooding in recent years has left at least 12 people dead, with cities and villages inundated, power supplies knocked out and livelihoods destroyed in three eastern coastal states, officials said Tuesday.

A total of 15,414 people were evacuated from their homes in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang states and housed in relief centers, officials said.

Power supplies went down in towns and villages in all three states as generator substations were shut down after being flooded, said Tenaga Nasional Bhd., the national utility company.

Taliban arrests: Information from a man caught in a vehicle loaded with explosives led to the arrests of two senior Taliban military commanders believed responsible for a series of terror attacks in southern Afghanistan, an official said Tuesday.

Mullah Naqvi and Mullah Qayum were ac-



Court-martial in Iraq's drowning: 1st Lt. Jack Saville arrives for a pretrial hearing on Tuesday at Fort Hood, Texas. Saville and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, both part of the 1st Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Carson, Colo., are accused of ordering soldiers to push two Iraqis into the Tigris River in Samarra, Iraq, in January as punishment for violating curfew. Zaidoun Hassoun, 19, drowned. Defense lawyers contend that Hassoun safely reached shore and that Army investigators failed to positively identify a body or do an autopsy. Trials for Saville and Perkins are set for next month. They face up to 29 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

tive in the ousted regime's insurgency, and there was hope they could lead security forces to other top leaders, said Abdullah Laghmami, the intelligence chief in Kandahar province.

Taiwan politics: Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian took the blame for a legislative election defeat and resigned as the leader of his party Tuesday, a move that might help him be more flexible with rival China and ease gridlock in parliament.

Chen's Democratic Progressive Party and its allies were stunned when an opposition alliance — which was disorganized and beset with squabbling — won last weekend's legis-

lative election, taking 114 of the 225 seats.

States

Washington recount: Through all the counting and recounting in the closest governor's race in state history, Republican Dino Rossi has held the slimmest of margins over Democrat Christine Gregoire.

For the first time since the Nov. 2 election, it looks as though the tide could be turning. King County election officials in the Democratic stronghold of King County announced Monday that they would count more than 500 ballots that were mistakenly rejected after the election — possibly enough to swing the election to Gregoire.

Rossi won the Nov. 2 election by 261 votes, but saw that margin shrink to 42 votes after a machine recount of all 2.9 million ballots cast. As of Monday night, with 24 of the state's 39 counties completing their hand recounts, Rossi had gained 46 votes.

Michael Jackson case: Claiming they are swamped with potential evidence that prosecutors were slow in handing over, Michael Jackson's defense attorneys next week will ask a judge to postpone the pop star's child-molestation trial, according to court documents.

The trial is scheduled to start Jan. 31 in Santa Barbara, Calif. Earlier this month, Santa Barbara authorities again searched Jackson's Neverland ranch, securing a saliva sample for DNA testing and examining the pop star's security and telephone systems.

Freighter grounding: U.S. Coast Guard officials said an oil and fuel spill from a freighter that broke in two when it ran aground off Alaska's coast probably amounted to thousands of gallons less than had been feared.

The federal government's incident commander, Capt. Ron Morris, said Monday just 41,138 gallons of bunker fuel were inside the tank directly breached when the Malaysian soybean freighter Selendang Ayu split in two Wednesday on an Unalaska Island shoal.

SARS vaccine: The National Institutes of Health is launching a human trial to test the safety of an experimental vaccine against severe acute respiratory syndrome.

SARS, which was first recognized in 2002, killed 774 people worldwide before being brought under control by quarantine, pest isolation and travel restrictions.

Stories and photos from wire services

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GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Sasebo Naval Base Navy Exchange General Manager Sandra Franklin, standing at left, and the NEX maintenance department's Frank Thomas, right, discuss some last minute chores Tuesday before the NEX Auto Mini-Mart's grand opening Wednesday after a \$2.1 million building addition and renovation. Crouching at left is Jim Caron, NEX retail operations manager, helping Japanese workers secure a sign.

Sasebo's new \$2.1 million NEX Auto Mini-Mart opens

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Navy Exchange officials here say they are happy with results of a \$2.1 million, 3,200-square-foot addition and renovation of the Auto Mini-Mart.

In April, construction began to transform what then was the NEX Auto Port, to almost double in size. The remodeled facility's grand opening ceremony was Wednesday morning.

The store combines the base's gas station and car repair services with the Mini-Mart. The Mini-Mart's former location closed Wednesday morning, just after the new Auto Mini-Mart opened for business.

"When the ships return from deployment, I think the sailors will be pleasantly surprised," said Sandra Franklin, Sasebo NEX general manager, at the site Tuesday afternoon.

"I am really looking forward to presenting this to the Sasebo com-

munity," said Jim Caron, retail operations manager. "Finally, a store that was actually built to be a store."

Previously, the Auto Port — on California Drive near India Basin — sold gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, small convenience items and sodas. The NEX Car Rental business also operated from that site. The convenience store and package store functions existed separately, several hundred yards down the same street, facing Juliet Basin.

Now all are in the same facility, although in separate sections.

"This will benefit the sailors most by being much closer to the ships. It also features a much larger selection of items than before and a greater variety in those items. We are very happy about the increased freezer space and the walk-in cooler," Franklin said.

The freezer section includes items from single servings of ice cream to boxes of Omaha Steaks.

The walk-in cooler has room for customers to walk inside, where they can select cases of cold beverages rather than singles or six-packs.

The Auto Mini-Mart is the exchange's first major investment and construction project at a base in Japan, officials said. In the late 1990s, Japan's government decided it no longer would build facilities on U.S. bases for businesses.

The Navy Exchange Service Command is in the midst of a \$15.1 million project to reorganize and enhance how Sasebo base residents shop.

A new \$13 million, 58,000-square-foot NEX main store at the site of two demolished warehouses, will join the Mini-Mart. Construction on the new main store is scheduled to begin early in 2005 with completion estimated for October 2007.

Sasebo's main base has seven NEX operations: Hario Housing Village, about 10 miles from the main base, has three more.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstripes.osd.mil

Cookie Caper set to distribute thousands of cookies to soldiers

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The Girl Scouts donated 18 dozen. Edgren High School and JROTC dropped off almost 1,000. And volunteer Airman 1st Class Rachel Bateman baked more than 100.

The fellowship room in the base chapel on Tuesday smelled

like a grandmother's kitchen, with trays upon trays of homemade cookies and candy spread out on tables.

It's time for Misawa's annual Cookie Caper.

Organizers estimate they'll have about 7,000 cookies to give away this year to single and unaccompanied personnel.

"This is to bring a little bit of holiday cheer to people," said volunteer Anne Turnbull of the Family Support Center. "Misawa can be kind of a lonely place for some people."

The Cookie Caper is a massive volunteer effort to deliver cookie trays to about 1,300 single or unaccompanied service members and civilians — living on or off base — who are spending the holidays away from family.

This year's sponsors are the Family Support Center, American Red Cross, Misawa Officer's Spouses Club and the Enlisted Community Organization, but those groups rely on base residents to bake cookies.

Units and commands provide a list of their single or unaccompanied members. And the community, Turnbull said, always comes

through with plenty of homemade cookies.

"We always sweat it a little bit each year," she said Tuesday. "We put out word yesterday that we needed about 3,000 more cookies. They're rolling in" today.

Bateman contributed about nine dozen homemade peanut butter and sugar cookies, even though she, too, is a single airman a long distance from her family in Baltimore.

"I didn't get cookies last year, so I at least wanted to make sure that other single airmen get them," she said. Bateman had arrived at Misawa only a few weeks before last year's Cookie Caper, so her name probably

"fell through the cracks," she said.

"It's nice," she said of the cookie drive, because the holiday season "can get lonely."

Bateman and Airman 1st Class Dionne

worked about four hours Tuesday morning setting out about six cookies and several pieces of candy on each Styrofoam tray. Other volunteers covered the trays with plastic wrap

and organized them into brown bags by unit. Turnbull said unit first sergeants collect the bags and deliver them to the dorms, barracks or work sites.

In all, about 40 volunteers helped assemble cookie packages. Turnbull said other base organizations also contributed, she said, noting the Defense Commissary Agency provided the cookie trays, refreshments for volunteers and other supplies.

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svanh@pstripes.osd.mil



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Rachel Bateman assembles cookie trays Tuesday for the annual Cookie Caper at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Pacific troops moving thousands of pounds of relief in Philippines

BY JULIANA GITTIER

Stars and Stripes

More than 600 U.S. Marines, sailors and airmen assisting with relief distribution in the storm-devastated Philippines had transported more than 308,000 pounds of supplies between Friday and Tuesday, Marine officials said.

While in the Philippines, Marine helicopter squadrons from Okinawa and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan, load up and deliver supplies throughout

the day from Clark Air Base, north of Manila, and two Philippine air force bases used as make-shift supply depots.

They deliver supplies to four ravaged communities in Luzon.

Thousands of bags of rice, soup and clothing and boxes of water are transported each day, Marine officials said.

The Philippine government is supplying the aid material, which is handed out by the Philippine military and Red Cross. But with roads impassable and bridges

washed out, the U.S. Marine aircraft and personnel have been essential for ferrying large numbers of supplies quickly, Philippine leaders have said.

Parts of the Philippines south of Manila were devastated after a string of recent storms.

Floods, caused in part by illegal logging in the mountains, caused a rush of water that carried away people and homes and left huge areas cut off and desperate for help.

E-mail Juliana Gittier at: gittierj@pstripes.osd.mil



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

A Philippine man holds his daughter Tuesday as he walks through flooded streets of Infanta, one of the drop-off points for U.S. Marines delivering relief supplies in the Philippines.

Former regime leaders to be tried next week

BY NICK WADHAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Trials against the 11 figures in Saddam Hussein's ousted regime will begin next week, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Tuesday, but Saddam will not be among them.

Many of Iraq's former Baath Party members have been in jail for more than a year, and few have been able to meet with counsel.

Saddam's Jordan-based lawyers say they have not seen the former dictator, arrested a year ago Monday, and said holding trials so soon would be illegal.

"The Iraqi court will be in violation of the basic rights of the defendants, which is to have access to legal counsel while being interrogated and indicted," Ziad al-Khasasneh said.

Officials had given conflicting accounts about when the trials before the Iraqi Special Tribunal would begin, and have also suggested that Saddam would not be tried

Saddam will not be among those to go on trial

first. The Associated Press learned Tuesday that the proceedings next week would not involve Saddam.

"I can now tell you clearly and precisely that, God willing, next week the trials of the symbols of the former regime will start, one by one so that justice can take its path in Iraq," Allawi told the interim National Council, without saying who would be tried.

Allawi had previously said they would take place in October or November, while others have said they would begin no earlier than 2006. An Allawi spokesman later said he had no information about who would be tried first and said more details would be released Wednesday.

"There is a court process that involves investigative judges and a hearing for some of the former regime officials that is under preparation that we would expect to be held next week," State Department spokes-

man Richard Boucher said. "At that point, the accused and their attorneys do go to court, although that's not the actual trial."

Iraq's human rights minister, Bekhtiar Amin, said from Geneva that work was under way to bring some of Saddam's lieutenants to trial before him.

"I don't know for sure when Saddam Hussein in particular will be tried, but the trial is scheduled to start sometime next year, the first quarter of next year," Amin said. "I doubt that Saddam will be the first one to be tried, there are others whom they will start with and the work is ongoing right now."

Allawi also announced the arrest of a cousin of Saddam's, Ziti-Din Mohammed Hassan al-Majid. Al-Majid, who fled Iraq in 1995 and was granted indefinite leave to remain in Britain in 2000, was arrested in Fallujah and will be put on trial as soon as possible, Allawi said.

Government leaders have said recently the Special Tribunal is not yet prepared to begin the trials.

They need to train judges and prosecutors, and sort through stacks of evidence, all under the pressure of a deadly insurgency that has been able to strike at will.

"The prosecution team, the defense counsel, the investigative judges, the documents are not ready," National Security Adviser Mowaffak al-Rubaie told the AP last week. "It will take time. If you want to get it right, it will take time."

But leaders have come under new pressure recently. On Monday, the U.S. military acknowledged that eight of Saddam's 11 top lieutenants went on hunger strikes over the weekend to demand visits in jail from the International Committee of the Red Cross, but they were eating again by Monday.

A lawyer for former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said they were protesting the legality of their trials and their detention.

Insurgents strike Baghdad's Green Zone checkpoint again

Second suicide car bombing in two days kills 7, wounds 13

BY SLOBODAN LKIC
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide car bomber killed seven people at a Green Zone checkpoint early Tuesday, the second attack in two days near the same gate into the district that houses Iraq's interim government and the U.S. Embassy, officials said.

In other violence, the U.S. military said two U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based in western Iraq died in combat in Baghdad province Monday, bringing the number of Marines killed to 10 in three days. Seven other Marines died in action Sunday in Anbar, a vast province west of Baghdad including the battleground cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, and a 10th was

killed Saturday. The military provided no details on their deaths, which brought to nearly 1,300 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003.

Tuesday's blast at the Green Zone checkpoint killed seven people and wounded at least 13 people, said Dr. Hassan AbdelSatar from Baghdad's Yarmouk Hospital. Police Lt. Rafid Abid said the attack was carried out by a suicide car bomber.

A mushroom-shaped cloud of black smoke rose from the site of the attack, which was near where a bomber struck Monday, killing 13 and injuring 15 people.

The location is near the Harthiyah gate on the western edge of the zone, which has been repeatedly targeted by bombings and mortar and missile attacks since it became the headquarters of the occupation authorities in May 2003.

No U.S. troops were injured in either blast.

The U.S. Embassy and several

other missions are located inside the zone, which occupies an area of four square miles on the west bank of the Tigris River. The area, comprising Saddam's palace and other administrative

buildings, is a virtual fortress encircled by miles of 12-foot-high barricades, its gates guarded by U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles. The complex is off-limits to the public.

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NASA retires B-52B after nearly 50 years in air

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After nearly 50 years of high-speed, high-altitude hauling work, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's B-52B air-launch "mother ship" is finally being grounded.

The tremendous aircraft — it has a 185-foot wingspan and once

carried a 53,100-pound payload to 50,000 feet — has played a critical role in the development of rocket engines and NASA's space shuttles.

But Alan Brown, spokesman for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center in California, said mechanics have been salvaging parts from junked bombers and museums for years to keep the

B-52B aloft, and the center simply does not have the finances or the need to continue those repairs.

"We really hate to see it retire," he said. "To see that thing still flying was incredible, when you knew it had been flying back in the 1950s. It has bridged so many eras here."

The plane's last flight was in No-

vember, when it carried the X-43A experimental scramjet engine on that machine's 7,000 mph, record-setting flight. Other experiments included the X-15 rocket plane, the precursor to NASA's early manned spacecraft.

Built in 1955, the aircraft was the 10th B-52 ever produced, but never dropped a single bomb, Brown said. Air Force officials loaned the plane to NASA in 1959 for space travel research, and will put the machine on permanent display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., following Friday's handover.

The silver ship has seen more than 20 pilots over the last half-century but has been flown less than 2,500 hours, the least of

any of the B-52s, Brown said.

NASA does have a modified B-52H that can conduct some air launch experiments in the future, but Brown said those will be few and far between. The newer aircraft doesn't have the strength or other payload modifications of the B-52B, and less expensive computer programs and smaller models will provide most of the data for future scientific research.

What those new devices won't have, Brown said, is the impressive history of the B-52B.

"It has been so identified with us for so many years," he said. "It really is an amazing, historic aircraft."

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

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THE NEW SANNO



Courtesy of Dryden Flight Research Center

The X-38 research vehicle drops away from NASA's B-52B mothership after it's released from the B-52's wing pylon in July 1999. After nearly 50 years of service with NASA, the B-52 is being retired and will be put on display at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The markings under the wing of the B-52B are a history of all the vehicles the plane has launched.

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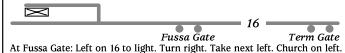
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Malaria season drawing to a close in Iraq

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Troops are now weaning themselves from the malaria medicine they've been taking throughout the spring and summer as doctors mark the end of malaria season.

"The malaria parasite has to have a certain temperature to grow in the mosquito's gut," said Air Force Capt. Tyler Watson, chief of public health for the 332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron at Balad.

As temperatures have cooled into the 30s at night sometimes, with daily highs often no greater than the 60s, the Anopheles mosquito and its hitchhiking parasite have taken a holiday, Watson said. The ma-

laria season will begin again when temperatures warm up in April.

Watson said the season ended Nov. 30, but airmen will keep taking chloroquine weekly until the end of December. In January, they will begin daily doses of primaquine for two weeks.

The first medicine cleans the parasite from the blood; the second removes it from the liver.

For the Army, malaria season ended on Nov. 5, said Sgt. Carlton Overton, immunization noncommissioned officer in charge at the Troop Medical Clinic at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, which is connected to the air base.

"Climate will determine when the season ends," he said, and the Army deter-

mined it was cool enough by early November to guess the malaria threat.

Soldiers have already stopped taking chloroquine and are now taking primaquine.

Overton said the Army is also testing soldiers for the enzyme known as Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase, or G6PD. If a person's G6PD enzyme is normal, they will take primaquine. If not, they will be given doxycycline, a one-day pill like primaquine.

The Air Force does similar screening when members enter the service.

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Paul Friedrichs, commander of the 332nd EAS, said it is not a lack of understanding that prevents Iraq from stamping out the problem.

"The doctors I've met from Iraq are well-trained. They know what they need to do," he said. But they lack the medicines to prevent the disease and the resources to stamp it out at the source.

"That's the reason malaria is not eradicated [in Iraq]," he said.

The military preventive health experts identified and sprayed mosquito-breeding grounds in Iraq. Bed netting and repellent was provided to troops. Uniforms were treated with permethrin to keep the critters at bay.

Neither the Army nor Air Force has reported any U.S. cases of malaria in Iraq. Watson said the hospital has done some blood tests to rule out malaria for a couple of sick airmen.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



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Guarding the most dangerous highway in Iraq

Soldiers adapt methods to keep up with insurgents' tactics near Baghdad airport

By JOSH WHITE
The Washington Post

ON THE BAGHDAD AIRPORT ROAD — Sgt. Edward Gonzalez, upon the turret around quickly and locked it into place with a loud clank, training his machine gun on the traffic behind him. The radio had just crackled with a warning: A suspicious vehicle was moving in close on the Army convoy.

"What kind of car was it, again?" Gonzalez, 28, of Alice, Texas, belted out, ducking his head momentarily into the rolling armored Humvee, which has "Big Country" emblazoned on the windshield. First Lt. Jeffrey Porter, 25, of Tomahawk, Ky., dropped the radio and turned to his left, calmly describing a white 1995 Volkswagen Brasília and telling his gunner he had been warned that the car might be rigged with explosives.

Some people call this road, the only way from the airport to Baghdad's Green Zone, the most dangerous highway in Iraq. Later, it has become a magnet for enormous, fiery explosions. People boast that they've traveled it and are relieved when they make it from one end to the other. To the Army, it's just Route Irish.

"There he is, there he is," Gonzalez said. "He's coming up on the right side. He's ahead of the rest of the traffic. OK. He's pulling off at the exit. There he goes."

Every minute on this roadway is tense. From the beginning of November through

last week, there were nearly 20 car bombings here targeting U.S. convoys and government officials, leading the U.S. Embassy to warn its staff not to travel the road.

Army officers and soldiers with the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment are charged with protecting Route Irish, and they say the road isn't nearly as bad as it is portrayed. They acknowledge that the attacks have created a significant perception problem, scaring people away from the route and causing the U.S. military to increase its number of patrols.

The 2nd Brigade of the Army's 10th Mountain Division is planning to bring in another battalion of soldiers from the United States specifically to boost the military presence on the airport road. The plans are being developed, officials said without providing specifics, but a few hundred more soldiers will probably be added soon.

Maj. James Fischer, the acting commander of the unit, said he believed the November car bomb attacks were part of a campaign of intimidation by insurgents. Several people were killed in the attacks, but most of the casualties were bombers.

"In the big scheme of war, it's nothing," Fischer, 39, of Jefferson, Wis., said of the attacks. "It's not as bad as it looks."

"While every soldier is a tragedy," he said, new procedures on the road have for the most part prevented additional casualties.

The Army previously sent regular convoys to patrol the road; now soldiers are



Iraqis stand in early December outside a shop in Baghdad that was bombed. The shop is close to Baghdad's dangerous airport highway.

armed to the teeth and bring along tank-tracked Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The Bradleys are equipped with magnification tools that allow soldiers to peer into and under cars from a safe distance to determine whether they are a threat.

The car bombs, however, are a different story. There is almost nothing the military can do to stop suicide bombers, short of identifying them early, forcing the vehicles off the road or attacking them. The soldiers use models — including certain makes and models of cars and nervous or erratic behavior — to intervene as early as possible. They fire warning shots before putting bullets through a car's engine block. As a last resort, they will kill a driver.

The explosions from the suicide mis-

sions leave blackened droplets in the asphalt, and their sharp blasts rattle the windows and doors in nearby camps Liberty and Victory, where soldiers live.

Gonzalez and Porter, members of Assault Battery with the unit, speak softly when they mention their experience with a car bomb on Nov. 6, an attack that killed an American gunner in a Humvee directly behind theirs.

"As soon as I saw him, I knew it," Gonzalez said. "He was nervous. He swerved to the far right lane, and by the time he got to the convoy, I shot."

Gonzalez hit the driver in the chest with one round from his M4 rifle.

"I got two kids at home," Gonzalez said. "For a few days, I was worried about all this. But a kind of fades with time."

Two days in August haunt Unit Company C

By KARL VICK
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Members of the U.S. Army's 41st Regiment uncovered an AK-47 during a routine search in the dangerous Baghdad suburb of Sadr City on Aug. 31. Finding a weapon was not unusual, but Sgt. Michael P. Williams, 25, said he felt danger when he saw a snarling Iraqi man in the house where the gun was found, according to the testimony of fellow soldiers.

"I feel threatened," Williams declared, "the soldiers recalled."

"The Iraqi went for his weapon."

Moments later, Williams shot the Iraqi man with two bullets to his head and chest, according to testimony last Friday at a military hearing, known as an Article 32 proceeding, intended to decide whether Williams would face court-martial in the killing. Other members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, said the Iraqi did not have a weapon.

Williams' hearing, in a crowded meeting room on a military base in Baghdad, focused on one of a number of murder cases involving U.S. forces. Such hearings shed light on the conduct and leadership of American troops, as well as the rules of engagement they are supposed to abide by in Iraq, where armed conflict has gone on longer and in more treacherous settings than Pentagon planners initially anticipated.

On Friday, one member of Williams' unit, Staff Sgt. Johnny M. Home Jr., sat weeping in an improvised courtroom not far from the Williams hearing. He pleaded guilty and later was sentenced to three years in prison for shooting a gravely wounded teenager on Aug. 18.

Two other members of Company C face murder charges arising from incidents in

Unit members accused of killing several Iraqis

the warren of narrow lanes and squalid homes of Sadr City. In addition, at the regiment's headquarters in Fort Riley, Kan., two members of the 41st face charges of first-degree murder in the killings of two fellow soldiers.

Analysts say such cases raise important questions.

"The charges you have multiple offenses in a single unit you immediately think about the leadership of that unit,"

"Any time you have multiple serious offenses in a single unit you immediately think about the leadership of that unit."

Gary Solis
West Point teacher

said Gary Solis, a former Marine officer who teaches the law of war at West Point. A prosecutor said Company C is involved actions taken during two days in August at a particularly dangerous time for U.S. forces.

On those days, U.S. battalions spent most of the month retaking the holy city of Najaf, about 90 miles south of Baghdad, from the Mahdi Army militia of a Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr. In eastern Baghdad, other U.S. forces were grinding down the militia in its urban base, exchanging fire in Sadr City each night.

Most of the victims in Sadr City are nameless, identified in court papers and testimony as "Iraqi nationals." Qasim Hassan, the only individual named in testimony, was identified by a newspaper investi-

gating the circumstances of his death.

Hassan was riding in the back of a garbage truck that was mistakenly identified as an insurgent vehicle. It was ripped to bits by two Company C units. After the incident, it was determined that the truck was operated by a businessman and was assigned to clean the street.

Still unidentified are three other victims: an Iraqi tank crew down near the garbage truck while waving what appeared to be a white flag; the man Williams allegedly shot at point-blank range; and another unnamed man allegedly killed by a soldier who asked Williams, "Can I shoot this one?"

Other charges grew out of shootings on Aug. 31, as Williams' squad went under conducting routine searches of houses elsewhere in Sadr City.

Under a law in effect since the U.S. occupation began, each Iraqi household is permitted one weapon. But in answer to questions by prosecutors, Spec. Tufaluno Young testified that Williams spoke of plans to kill any Iraqi found with a weapon. A prosecutor said Williams had spoken of killing any Iraqi males of military age. Williams, who could face the death penalty if the case proceeds to court-martial, has not testified.

The shootings in Sadr City emerged when squad member Pfc. Gary Romrell, after a "crisis of conscience," slipped a note under his door of a commanding officer warning that "soldiers had committed serious crimes that needed to be looked at."

An Army investigator described Romrell as the black sheep of his squad in part because he opposed the war in Iraq. The private has since been transferred to another unit.

Young testified that Williams had said, "The first chance he gets, I'm going to kill Romrell."

Report: Army reprimanded officer after Afghan death

By R. JEFFREY SMITH
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Army's Special Operations Command issued an administrative reprimand this year against one of four U.S. military officers in Afghanistan alleged in an Army document to have murdered a local man they believed was following their movements, according to Army officials and a newly disclosed internal document.

The case, which an Army document last June said involved alleged "murder, conspiracy, (and) obstruction of justice," was opened on Sept. 26, 2002, and closed on March 23 of this year. The document was obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union in a recent Freedom of Information Act lawsuit and released by the group last week.

The reprimand came in what defense officials said Monday was one of at least eight deaths of Afghans in U.S. military custody since U.S. troops first occupied the country in October 2001 — a higher number than previously disclosed. Two U.S. servicemen have so far been charged with crimes related to two of the other deaths; the Army has already said charges may be brought against 28 people implicated in one of these deaths.

Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman, said Monday that Army records showed the September 2002 death involved an Afghan known as "M. Sayari," but that she had no other information about what happened.

IN THE WORLD

Palestinian leader calls for end to violence

By RAVI NESSMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leader campaigning to succeed Yasser Arafat in elections next month, said in an interview Tuesday that the 4-year-old armed uprising against Israel was a mistake and must end.

His strong statement, which could cost him some electoral support, sent a challenge to militants who have been waging war with suicide attacks and ambushes and set the stage for a resumption of peace efforts if he wins.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Asharq al-Awsat pub-

lished Tuesday, Abbas said Palestinians should continue resisting Israeli occupation, but only through nonviolent means.

"The uprising is a legitimate right of the people to express their rejection of the occupation by popular and social means," Abbas said. "Using the weapons was harmful and has got to stop."

While Arafat was still alive, Abbas mainly saved his criticism of the armed uprising for private conversations. When he publicly expressed his belief during the launch of the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan in 2003, he drew sharp condemnation.

But uprising leader Marwan Barghout's withdrawal from the Jan. 9 elections to re-

place Arafat has left Abbas the clear front-runner, giving him more leeway to take risks and alienate some potential voters in exchange for laying the groundwork for rapid postelection peace moves.

And many Palestinians — while supporting militant attacks that have killed more than 1,000 Israelis, many of them civilians — have tired of a conflict that has crushed their economy and killed more than 3,000 of their people.

Abbas, a pragmatist who has the quiet support of Israel and the international community, has been working to persuade militant groups to halt attacks.

In response to Abbas' statement, the White House said it welcomed moves aimed at fighting terror.

"We remain focused on working toward a strategy that will put in place the institutions necessary for a viable (Palestinian) state to emerge," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"But fighting terrorism and putting in a unified security force are key to those efforts."

Israel has said violence must end before peace talks can resume and has held out the prospect of coordinating its planned withdrawal from Gaza and four West Bank settlements with the new Palestinian leadership if it quells violence.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon refused to negotiate with Arafat, accusing him of fomenting violence.

U.N. troops storm Haiti stronghold

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Hundreds of U.N. peacekeeping troops stormed into a stronghold of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Tuesday in an attempt to control areas that have been flashpoints of violence. At least three people were shot.

Sporadic gunfire rang out from the Cite Soleil slum as Brazilian and Jordanian troops entered the area in armored personnel carriers, exchanging fire with armed residents.

Three people with gunshot wounds were carried through a U.N. roadblock. Residents told U.N. officials they had been shot by armed thugs.

Cite Soleil, a gritty slum outside Port-au-Prince, has been a focal point of violence since September, when Aristide's loyalists stepped up protests to demand his return from exile in South Africa. More than 100 people have been killed in political violence since Sept. 30.

Aristide fled the country Feb. 29 after a three-week rebellion.

U.N. officials said they planned to patrol the area for at least two months until they can transfer operations to Haiti's beleaguered police.

Deadly train collision in India



Indian army personnel and volunteers assist in rescue operations Tuesday near damaged cars of a passenger train in Khanpur, India, about 180 miles northwest of New Delhi, India. An express train crashed head-on into a local train, officials said. At least 31 people were killed.

Pinochet appeals ruling

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Lawyers for Gen. Augusto Pinochet appealed a judge's decision to place the former Chilean dictator under house arrest, winning him at least another day of freedom.

Judge Juan Guzman ordered Pinochet, 89, confined to his home after indicting him Monday in the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the death of one of them during his 17-year military regime.

It is the third attempt to try him for alleged abuses during his rule in the South American country.

The ruling reversed earlier court decisions to exempt Pinochet from trial on health grounds.

"Gen. Pinochet has been declared mentally competent to face a criminal trial in Chile," Guzman said.

He said he reached that decision after questioning the former president and examining reports from court-appointed doctors.

Guzman said he was also influenced by an interview Pinochet gave to a Spanish-language TV station in Miami last year.

Pinochet told the station he sees himself as "a good angel," and blamed abuses on subordinates in his regime. Guzman said Pinochet appeared mentally alert.

American diplomacy with N. Korea coming up short

By BARRY SCHWEID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bush administration persistence in using diplomacy to solve a nuclear weapons crisis with North Korea is coming up short as the insular regime bobs and weaves away from resuming negotiations.

The faltering effort is having a divisive effect on U.S. relations with South Korea and Japan, which have blamed U.S. inflexibility for North Korea's refusal to halt its atomic weapons program.

American diplomats are trying to smooth over those differences, while looking to China to make the case to Pyong-

yang that it would be wise to denuclearize the Korean peninsula in exchange for security assurances and economic benefits.

Rose Gottemoeller, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, tends to agree with the criticism from South Korea and Japan.

"The way in which the administration has relied on diplomacy is to take a very hard line and stick with it, and not be willing to explore possible avenues of resolution," the former Clinton administration official said Monday.

"That's not diplomacy, that's standing tough," she said.

An offer by the administration last June of security assurances and economic cooperation in exchange for a total halt to the nuclear weapons program was a "decisive starting point," she said, and should now be improved.

But Danielle Pletka, vice president for defense policy at the American Enterprise Institute, said the impasse is not the fault of the Bush administration.

North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il is not going to agree to complete, verifiable dismantling of his nuclear weapons program and will not negotiate "unless we take steps to prop up his regime, which is anath-

ema to us," Pletka said.

The answer, she said, is to convince China that "playing both sides is not in their interest."

Negotiations were supposed to have resumed in September, but even low-level talks are anticipated as the year runs out on what appears to be one of the biggest security issues confronting the Bush administration.

The most recent reason North Korea gives for not resuming negotiations with the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Russia is that the Bush administration is trying to topple Kim Jong Il and his government with a "frantic smear campaign."

Analysis

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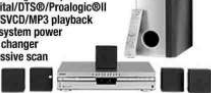
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N.Korea: Japan doctored DNA

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
The Associated Press

TOKYO — North Korea on Tuesday accused Japan of doctoring the DNA analysis it conducted on remains allegedly belonging to a Japanese girl kidnapped by communist spies decades ago, denying Tokyo's claims the remains belonged to someone else.

Japan said last week that tests on remains Pyongyang claimed belonged to Megumi Yokota, who was 13 years old when she was abducted in 1977, showed that they were actually those of two other people.

A man claiming to be Yokota's widower handed the remains to Japanese officials who were in Pyongyang last month to prod the North to come clean about its abductions of Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s.

A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday accused Japan of falsifying the DNA analysis, saying the work "was based on a political script."

"It is unimaginable that Megumi Yokota's husband would hand over to Japan the remains of a stranger and not his wife," the unidentified spokesman said in a statement carried on state-run Korean Central Broadcast that was monitored in Tokyo by Radio-pers.

"If he did as Japan said and handed over the remains of a stranger, what do you suppose he expected to achieve by doing so?" he said.

The remarks were the first official reaction from the reclusive communist state since Japanese officials said last Wednesday the remains were not Yokota's.

The announcement outraged Japanese voters, fueling calls for Tokyo to impose economic sanctions on the North.

The North Korean leader Kim Jong Il admitted to 13 Japanese to train its spies in Japanese language and culture.

The North allowed five of the victims to return home but said the eight others had died. Japan suspects they may still be living in the isolated state.

On Friday, a group of Japanese ruling party lawmakers and a lower house committee passed separate resolutions calling for a freeze in humanitarian aid to the impoverished state and a threat of economic sanctions if progress is not made.

A survey released Tuesday by Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, showed 74 percent of 1,817 voters intend to call for the weekend said Japan should slap economic sanctions on North Korea, compared with 19 percent opposed.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has so far resisted imposing penalties, arguing that they would block further progress on the kidnapping cases and complicate international talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program.



Iran's chief negotiator Hassan Rohani, second from left, meets with, from far right, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Brussels on Monday.

Iran is willing to negotiate nuclear program with U.S.

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran is willing to talk with the United States about a nuclear program that Washington alleges is aimed at secretly acquiring the bomb, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Monday.

Germany, Britain and France launched new negotiations with Iran on Monday to try to persuade Tehran to abandon any nuclear program that could be used for weapons, in return for aid to build up its civilian energy program.

Kharrazi told a news conference that talks with Washington could also be possible. The United States broke diplomatic relations with Iran after militant students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

"If negotiations are on the basis of equality and mutual respect in

the same way we are talking to Europeans now, there is no reason not to talk to others," Kharrazi said when asked whether Tehran also was willing to talk to the United States about its nuclear program.

Iran's reformers support dialogue with Washington but hard-liners are opposed to any rapprochement, arguing that the U.S. goal is to bring about the collapse of the ruling Islamic establishment.

Some Europeans have hoped America's possible engagement in talks with Iran would increase pressure on Tehran to permanently abandon any weapons program and reassure its rulers that Washington was not seeking their overthrow.

Kharrazi, addressing the news conference with his South African counterpart, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, said Iran will as-

sess the talks with European countries within three months if new negotiations do not meet Iran's demand to use its nuclear program for domestic energy purposes.

"If we see that talks are waste of time and have no results, definitely we will make our own decisions," he said.

Kharrazi described the talks as "very serious" and dismissed allegations that Tehran was stalling, insisting that Iran had "no interest in wasting time."

Iran agreed to a temporary deal with the Europeans last month to suspend uranium enrichment but has insisted that the freeze is voluntary and short.

Zuma, whose country is an influential member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, said South Africa defends "Iran's right for peaceful use of nuclear technology," but was opposed to a weapons program.

EBaradei: Arabs must rid region of WMDS

BY RAWYA RAGEH
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Arab-Israeli conflict has kept Arabs from addressing other security concerns, including the need to rid the region of weapons of mass destruction.

At the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, Monday, Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, told a forum of international leaders that the Middle East must free itself of all weapons of mass destruction.

"We only focus on land for peace, we never really look at security," ElBaradei said. "Clearly we need to have a nuclear weapon-free zone, clearly we have to rid ourselves of chemical and biological weapons and that has to be, again, part of the security dialogue that should be parallel to the peace process."

He said that he would not deny it has nuclear weapons or deny it has nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, the United States and others accuse non-Arab Iran of secretly pursuing nuclear weapons, a charge Iran denies. The IAEA recently authorized ElBaradei to monitor Iran's commitment to freeze uranium enrichment, which can produce either low-grade fuel for nuclear reactors or the raw material for atomic weapons.

At the conference at which ElBaradei spoke, retired U.S. Army Gen. Wesley Clark, the former NATO supreme allied commander and Democratic presidential candidate, called on Arab countries to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.



ElBaradei

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Guard gave wrong count for death rate analysis

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard said Monday it had given USA Today an inaccurate count of Guard troops in Iraq since the beginning of the war in March 2003, but still could not provide a precise count, the paper reported Tuesday.

USA Today used those numbers to construct an analysis that showed part-time troops from the Guard were more likely to

die in Iraq than their counterparts in the active-duty Army.

Without precise figures, there is no way to accurately compare death rates.

The Guard said last week that 37,000 Guard troops had set foot in Iraq since the start of the war. On Monday, Guard spokesman Scott Woodham said 90,972 Guard troops had been ordered to Iraq, but he could not say how many had actually got-

ten there, and how many were on their way.

Woodham gave two explanations for the error. In a telephone interview with USA Today on Monday, Woodham said the National Guard Bureau made "an internal mistake" in compiling the numbers.

In a second conversation, Woodham said he "misunderstood the question" when asked how many Army Guard troops had

deployed to Iraq since the beginning of the war, USA Today reported.

The proportion of battle deaths for Army Guard and Reserve in Iraq are still significantly higher than in past conflicts, Woodham said. Throughout the 12-year Vietnam War, for example, fewer than 100 Guard troops were killed, compared with the 145 who have died in less than two years in Iraq.



President Bush stands with Presidential Medal of Freedom honorees, from left, former CIA Director George Tenet, who left the agency in July after seven years at its helm; retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Iraq and Afghanistan; and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer on Tuesday at the White House. Bush said each of the men had played "pivotal roles in great events."

Three of Bush's key players in Iraq receive Medal of Freedom

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush awarded the nation's highest civilian honor Tuesday to three men central to his Iraq policy, saying they had played "pivotal roles in great events."

Bush presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who oversaw combat in Afghanistan and the initial invasion of Iraq, former CIA Director George Tenet and former Iraq administrator L. Paul Bremer.

Franks, of Midland, Texas, is a retired four-star Army general who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. He didn't decide until last summer to endorse Bush's re-election, but then spoke on the president's behalf at the Republican National Convention and campaigned for Bush through the fall.

Bush said Franks "led the forces that fought and won two wars in the defense of the world's security and helped liberate more than 50 million people from two of the worst tyrannies in the world."

Tenet left the CIA in July after seven years as director. He has been criticized for intelligence failures before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the never-proven prewar allegations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Bush credited him as "one of the first to recognize and address the threat to America from radical networks." He said that after Sept. 11, Tenet was "ready with a plan to strike back at al-Qaida and to topple the Taliban."

Bremer was the top civilian U.S. official in postwar Iraq, overseeing the transfer of power to an interim Iraqi government in June. "For 14 months Jerry Bremer worked day and night in difficult and dangerous conditions to stabilize the country, to help its people rebuild and to establish a political process that would lead to justice and liberty," Bush said.

This fall, Bremer suggested the United States had paid a price in Iraq in the immediate aftermath of major combat operations because it did not have enough troops in place to stop the looting.

Those remarks gave Bush critics ammunition for their claims that the administration's postwar planning was inadequate.

Bremer tried to calm that controversy by saying he had constantly supported the president's strategy in Iraq.

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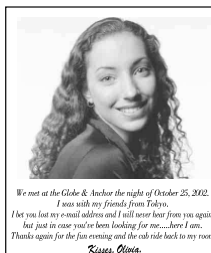
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IN THE STATES

LAX taking steps to prevent terror attacks

BY GREG KRIKORIAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Counterterrorism officials, prompted by a series of overseas attacks against commercial airliners, have quietly taken steps to protect jetliners at Los Angeles International Airport from terrorists armed with shoulder-launched missiles.

Although there is no credible intelligence indicating that terrorists have planned such an attack at LAX, the officials say the security

measures are needed because portable weapons are easy to buy on the international arms market and are deadly, with infrared guidance systems that lock onto the heat emitted by jetliners' engines.

The security measures, instituted over the past year, include increased police patrols around the airport, perimeter fencing, stepped-up training to help personnel spot the tubular weapons and expanded helicopter surveillance during terrorism alerts so a missile's route could be tracked in the

event of an attack.

A Rand Corp. report commissioned by airport authorities said earlier this year that LAX is "a particularly attractive target" for terrorists and outlined ways of reducing the risk of attacks involving man-portable air defense systems.

"I think the threat has been continually underestimated by the decision makers in Washington," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who has urged the Department of Homeland Security to accelerate plans for installing missile defense

on commercial aircraft.

Terrorists have never fired a shoulder-launched missile at an airplane in the United States. But the small missiles, weighing less than 40 pounds, have been used to shoot down two dozen commercial aircraft around the world over the past three decades and could be smuggled into the United States. A successful attack could ground the entire commercial airline fleet, some experts say.

"The threat is real," John Miller, the Los Angeles Police Depart-

ment's counterterrorism chief said in an interview after appearing at a counterterrorism conference last month at the University of Southern California. "With about 20,000 of these available on the black market, for \$2,000 to \$3,000 each, there is no indication it will not be tried again."

At the federal level, Boxer's most far-reaching solution calls for retrofitting the nation's commercial airliners with onboard lasers that destroy a portable missile's infrared guidance sensor.

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An unidentified baby is fed at a home for HIV/AIDS patients on World AIDS Day in Soweto, South Africa, in December 1998. Weeks before President Bush announced a plan in June 2002 to protect African babies from AIDS, top U.S. health officials were warned that research on a key drug, nevirapine, was flawed and may have underperformed severe reactions including deaths, government documents show.

Documents: NIH hid AIDS drug problems

Bush was unaware of nevirapine concerns when he announced plan for African babies

BY JOHN SOLOMON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government's research on using an AIDS drug to protect African babies was so flawed that health officials had to use blood tests after the fact to confirm patients got the medicine. Ultimately, they had to acknowledge the study broke federal patient protection rules.

But the National Institutes of Health never told the White House about problems it found in 2002 with its research on the drug nevirapine before President Bush unveiled a \$500 million plan to distribute the medicine across Africa, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Instead, officials inside the government's premier health research agency scrambled to keep its safety experts' concerns from scuttling the use of nevirapine in Africa as a cheap solution to stopping babies from getting AIDS from infected mothers, the memos show.

Everyone recognized the enormity that this decision could have on the worldwide use of nevirapine to interrupt mother-to-baby transmission," NIH's AIDS research chief, Dr. Edmund C. Tramont, reported March 14, 2002, to his boss, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of doses of the drug have been administered to African mothers and babies under the Bush plan.

Up to half those babies may have been stopped from getting AIDS, officials said. But now concerns are emerging about whether patients who received those single doses have developed resistance to further AIDS treatment.

The documents show Tramont and other NIH officials dismissed the problems with the nevirapine research in Uganda as overblown and were slow to report safety concerns to the Food and Drug Administration.

A professional auditor hired by NIH who first helped disclose the problems said in an interview that most of the problems were fixable but NIH officials were in a rush to declare that things were OK.

"It seemed to me we were drawing conclusions too quickly across the board, especially the implementation of nevirapine in South Africa," auditor Michael Hensley told AP.

Ultimately, NIH did stop the Uganda research for 15 months — from the spring of 2002 to the summer of 2003 — to review the science and take corrective actions.

NIH officials told AP they remain confident after re-reviewing the Uganda study and other research that nevirapine can be used safely in single doses by African mothers and children to prevent HIV transmission during birth.

But they acknowledged their Uganda research failed to meet required U.S. standards and have asked the National Academy of Sciences to investigate.

"I would say there are many lessons that we have learned from this review that will help us do our clinical research, both domestically and internationally, much better," said Dr. H. Clifford Lane, NIH's No. 2 infectious disease official.

The White House said it remains confident in Bush's \$500 million plan in 2002 to send nevirapine to Africa, a continent that accounts for more than two-thirds of the world's AIDS cases, with 27 million people infected.

Jurors: Lack of remorse sealed Peterson's fate

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Upon learning of his death sentence, Scott Peterson — convicted of murdering his pregnant wife — sat defiantly still and tight-jawed, the same vacant expression he wore throughout the trial. It was that apparent lack of emotion that may have doomed him.

The jury had been told that Peterson did not wear his emotions on his sleeve. But juror Michelle Nice told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that she noticed Peterson becoming emotional during the penalty phase of his trial.

"Is it just that he doesn't show emotion for Laci and Connor?" she asked. She said her thoughts were with Laci Peterson and the fetus she carried, which the couple had planned to name Connor.

"They can rest in peace," she said. "Justice was done."

A cheer went up outside the courthouse Monday as the jury announced its decision after 11½ hours of deliberations over three days. Judge Alfred A. DeLucchi will formally sentence Peterson on Feb. 25. The judge can reduce the sentence to life in prison, but it would be unlikely.

Inside, Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, cried quietly after the verdict was read. Scott Peterson's mother, Jackie, showed no apparent emotion.

Three jurors sat at a news conference afterward that they couldn't let go of the fact that the bodies of Laci Peterson and her fetus had washed ashore a few miles from where Scott Peterson claimed he went fishing the day she disappeared.

Juror Greg Berattis said the jury was convinced of Peterson's guilt by "many, many things," but added: "Those bodies were found in the same place. That played in my mind a lot and over it." That unsettling, the jurors seemed to agree, was Peterson's dispassionate demeanor.



Members of the jury, left to right, Gregory Berattis, Steve Cardosi and Michelle Nice, speak with the media in the Old San Mateo County Courthouse in Redwood City, Calif., on Monday. The jury returned with a sentence recommendation of death in the penalty phase of the Scott Peterson murder trial.

"He has no remorse," juror Michael Belmessieri said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show."

"He lost his wife and his child — it didn't seem to faze him," said juror Steve Cardosi. "And while that was going on ... he is romancing a girlfriend. That doesn't make sense to me. At all."

Peterson did not testify during the six-month trial.

Peterson was convicted Nov. 12 of one count of first-degree murder in the death of Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the killing of her eight-month-old fetus. The jury had two options in deciding the fate of the 32-year-old former fertilizer salesman: life in prison without parole or death by injection.

Military theme to permeate inaugural

BY JOHANNA NEUMAN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — As he leaves the Capitol after taking the oath of office Jan. 20, George W. Bush is expected to exercise a familiar presidential prerogative — reviewing the troops.

Then the real embrace of the military begins.

Bush, who campaigned for re-election as a wartime president, will have more than the usual presence of military flourishes at his second-term inaugural ceremonies. With 138,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq and casualties reported nearly every day, the White House wanted to showcase the role of the armed services in the war against terrorism as well as in the nation's premier display of a peaceful transition of power.

Officials are tight-lipped about details, awaiting a briefing this week from the Presidential Inaugural Committee. But the mili-



Construction crews work in the rain Friday building the parade reviewing stand in front of the White House in preparation for the inauguration of President Bush in January.

tary theme will thread through the 10 days of inaugural events normally highlighted by pomp and circumstance, a time when the nation's capital turns into a lavish backdrop for the revelry of the winning party.

This year, on the night of the inauguration, there will be a Commander in Chief Ball, open to troops who have just returned from Afghanistan or Iraq or are about to be deployed to either place.

Unlike the other eight official balls, this ball will be free to 2,000 enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers and their families.

The president by tradition attends all nine balls, so the invited servicemembers will have an opportunity to socialize with their commander in chief. Contributors will pay as much as \$250,000 to attend the balls and other inaugural events.

And there will be 2,100 military personnel playing in bands, appearing on floats or performing in the inaugural parade, with thousands more in ceremonial units, honor cords and even marching the names of participants to spectators lining the route.

"The fact that we're a nation at war will be reflected throughout the inaugural," said Tracey Schmitt, a spokeswoman for the inaugural committee.

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Labor of love

Heidi Klum gives back to fashion, modeling world with 'Project Runway'

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL

The Associated Press

Heidi Klum got her start in fashion through a German modeling contest and now she's returning the favor: She is the host and executive producer of "Project Runway," Bravo's new TV series that promises to pick the next hot fashion designer.

"I had a soft spot to do this, I wanted to give someone a chance who might not have had it," she says.

After 11 years in the business, Klum says she knows the fashion playing field isn't necessarily even.

"Look at Zac Posen. He had a huge break because he knew some people to get in. He's so talented and he thinks so innovatively, but there probably are a lot of Zac Posens around," Klum says.

(Posen, at 23, won the Council of Fashion Designers of America award for emerging talent earlier this year.)

"Project Runway," which follows 12 contestants through a series of fashion challenges, is more of a documentary than a reality show, according to Klum. Most of the episodes were shot in advance but the three finalists will have a runway run-off during New York Fashion Week in February.

"We're going to show the public what it's like to be a designer. I think people will be interested to see what it's really like, how talented designers are. What we're looking for is who is talented, not who is the funniest, not who is good looking," Klum explains.

The judges should be able to spot talent. The roster includes Michael Kors, whose upcoming spring 2005 collection has already enjoyed glowing reviews; Nina Garcia and Anne Slowley from Elle magazine; Constance White, style director for eBay; and Klum, who has worn designer duds in almost every major fashion magazine in the world.

As a model, it's her job to wear

whatever is thrown at her, but Klum, 31, says some of the outfits she's worn for photo shoots are hardly her taste. "For the cover of Time (Style & Design), I looked like Tweety Bird. We needed instructions on how to put the dress on, but those things have to be there in fashion so we have something to talk about. ... If everything was a black spaghetti-strap dress, fashion would be boring."

The task for the "Project Runway" participants is to balance creativity, quality and salability, all in a limited amount of time and with minimal resources.

Daniel Franco, a 32-year-old from Los Angeles, says, win or lose, having his designs on TV is the best marketing tool he could have imagined — even better than the hallowed pages of Vogue, Harper's Bazaar or Elle.

"Fashion programs allow designers to get their personalities out there and that's what people are buying. The Midwest seems to relate to personality and hopefully if they like your personality, they'll buy your clothes," Franco says.

Franco, who has studied fashion for six years, including creating his own master's program at Otis College of Art and Design, describes his look as somewhere between designer ready-to-wear and couture.

"If David Bowie's music were fashion designs they'd look like mine. They're a look into the future; they're innovative, very conceptual, a slender aesthetic for the modern athletic body," he says.

The aspiring designers featured on "Project Runway" aren't quite amateurs — Franco, for example, has been featured on Jane Pauley's talk show twice as a fashion expert — but they are still searching for their big break. The prize of having their designs photographed for Elle by publication director and shutterbug Gilles Bensimon and getting \$100,000 in seed money and a mentorship from Banana Republic would go a long way toward achieving that goal.



BR/AVO AP

Supermodel Heidi Klum is host and executive producer of "Project Runway," a new series on Bravo. The show promises to pick the next big thing among a group of aspiring designers.

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Arrests, controversy plague lottery winner

BY KELLEY SCHOONOVER

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The world's first glimpse of Jack Whittaker, winner of the richest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history, was of a boisterous, happy-go-lucky guy in a big cowboy hat who loved his family, work and God and promised to share his good fortune with the church and the poor.

Two years later, the picture the public is seeing now is a mug shot of a haggard, somber Whittaker. His wife says she regrets his purchase of the \$314 million ticket that has thrust her family into the public spotlight.

"I wish all of this never would have happened," Jewel Whittaker told The Charleston Gazette for Tuesday's editions. "I wish I would have torn the ticket up."

Whittaker, 57, has been arrested twice for drunk driving in the past year and has been ordered to go into rehab by Jan. 2 for a 28-day stay. On Monday, he pleaded no contest to charges he attacked a bar manager, and he is accused in two lawsuits of making trouble at a nightclub and a racetrack.

"This clown is not capable of handling a \$10 bill, much less all those millions. Every time you turn around, he's having trouble with the laws of our state. What a waste of all that money," groused Dewey Lange of Princeton.

Although he was already a wealthy contractor, Whittaker became an instant celebrity on Christmas Day 2002 after winning a \$314.9 million Powerball jackpot. He took his winnings in a lump sum of \$113 million after taxes, and at a news conference, he prom-

ised to donate one-tenth to his church and contribute to other causes.

He soon created a charity to help people find jobs, buy food or get an education; he split \$7 million among three churches; and he gave money to improve a Little League park and buy playground equipment and coloring books for children.

But in August 2003, a briefcase containing \$545,000 was stolen from Whittaker's sport utility vehicle while it was parked at a strip club, and police disclosed that Whittaker not only frequented strip clubs but was also a high-stakes gambler.

The break-in was the first of several thefts involving Whittaker's vehicle, his office and his house in Scott Depot, a booming community of about 8,000 situated between Charleston and Huntington.

One of the thefts occurred at his home on the same day an 18-year-old friend of Whittaker's granddaughter was found dead there. The death remains under investigation. Whittaker was out of town at the time, but the young man's death made the lottery winner part of yet another front-page story.

Also, last week Whittaker reported that his 17-year-old granddaughter was missing. The family had not seen or heard from Brandi Lashia Bragg since Dec. 4. Authorities are investigating.

In May, two men sued Whittaker, claiming they were injured when they were tossed out of a nightclub at his request. In another lawsuit, three female employees of a racetrack claim Whittaker assaulted them last year.

In January, he was accused of threatening and assaulting a bar manager; on Monday, he was fined \$100 and ordered to attend weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.



Record Powerball winner Jack Whittaker celebrates with his granddaughter Brandi Bragg, right, at West Virginia Lottery's Charleston headquarters after winning \$314.9 million in this 2002 photo. Since winning the jackpot, Whittaker has faced numerous arrests and lawsuits for drunken driving and assault. In September, a friend of 17-year-old Bragg was found dead in Whittaker's home. Last week, it was reported Bragg has not been seen since Dec. 4.

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YOUR MONEY

Gift cards popular — but they can be tricky

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Publicist Scott Black started looking at purchasing gift cards a couple of years ago, when he realized how much it cost to ship holiday presents to customers and family.

"Whether for a client or my mother-in-law, it seemed silly to spend \$50 on a gift and then \$20 to ship it," said Black, 40, president of the TimePiece Public Relations agency in Dallas.

He's become a big fan of gift cards, which are prepaid cards that look like credit or debit cards that recipients can use to purchase goods or services. Black even sends them to his mother, who is an avid reader.

"I get gift cards to the book stores near her," he said. "For her, the hunt for a new book is as exciting as getting the gift."

The most popular gift cards are sold by retailers, including department stores, restaurants and music shops, for use in their own outlets. Others are available through financial institutions and generally carry the logos of Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. These can be used wherever the branded credit cards are accepted.

Although increasingly popular with American consumers, gift cards are not without their drawbacks.

A study done by the Division of Consumer Affairs in Montgomery County, Md., found that some



Publicist Scott Black holds Barnes & Noble and Cheesecake Factory gift cards that he will be giving to friends and family as Christmas gifts. Black started looking seriously at purchasing gift cards a couple of years ago when he realized how much it was costing to ship presents to customers and family for the holidays.

gift card issuers do not offer replacement cards if the originals are lost or stolen.

Many extract "inactivity" or "dormancy" fees if a card isn't used within a year or other set period of time, reducing the value of the card by as much as \$2 a month. Some gift cards, especially bank-issued cards, cost \$3.95 to \$11.95 to buy and expire after a year or 18 months, the study found.

Consumers should understand a gift card's policies before

they buy," the Maryland agency said.

Despite potential problems, the cards are gaining increasing consumer acceptance because they help make gift-giving easy, said Tara Weiner, national managing director of consulting firm Deloitte & Touche USA's consumer business industries practice.

"Gift cards are convenient for the giver and convenient for the recipient, who can choose a gift they truly want," Weiner said.

A survey conducted by Deloitte

Before buying ...

The Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a number of state consumer agencies suggest consumers look into the terms and conditions on gift cards before they buy. ■ Is there a charge for purchase of the card? Look out for purchases by retailers generally don't have upfront costs, but bank cards that carry the logo of companies such as Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Visa can cost \$3.95 to \$11.95 to buy.

■ Does the card have an expiration date?

■ Are "inactivity" or "dormancy" fees deducted from the value of the gift card if it isn't used in a set period of time?

■ Are replacement cards available if a gift card is lost or stolen? Is there a charge for the replacement?

■ Exactly where can the cards be used? Can they be used on the Internet, or only for in-store purchases?

■ Can the cards be swapped for cash?

—The Associated Press

& Touche found that 64 percent of consumers intend to buy gift cards this holiday season, up from 60 percent in 2003. About half said they would purchase cards for stores or products, some 34 percent intend to buy cards for restaurants and 27 percent expect to buy cards for services.

But the Deloitte & Touche survey also found that more than a quarter of the people who received gift cards during the 2003 holiday season hadn't fully redeemed all of their gift cards a year later.

"You want the gift cards to be fully taken advantage of," Weiner said. "That suggests there's an opportunity for retailers to consider promotions around gift cards" after the holidays.

Ruth Furman, 38, of Las Vegas, used to avoid gift cards because she felt they were impersonal. Now she considers them the best way to make sure her eight nieces and nephews get exactly the gifts they want.

"I go out of my way to find out what they like, where they shop," Furman said. "I want the kids to

get something they're really going to like and they're really going to use."

That translates to Barnes & Noble and Borders gift cards for nieces who like to pick their own books and music, as well as a Toys R Us gift card for a 3-year-old nephew who likes Thomas the Tank Engine toys.

"I try to send the cards with a note, and that helps make it more personal," Furman said.

Still, there are consumers who don't want anything to do with gift cards.

"I just hate them," said Kathy Posner, 49, a retired advertising executive. Instead of putting gifts under the Christmas tree, "we're becoming a nation that puts envelopes under the tree."

Posner said she holiday shops through the year, trying to match gifts to the wants and needs of friends and family.

"Frankly, I would rather have you spend \$10 and give me something you've thought about than spend \$50 and hand me a gift card that says to me, 'I don't have time to think about you,'" she said.

Exact

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
	52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
10/31/03	9,766.40	8,096.00	Dow Jones Industrial	10,633.37	+95.31	+0.90	+17.6	+11.4	+11.4
3,148.05	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,734.96	+38.93	+1.05	+18.87	+28.24	+28.24	+28.24
235.20	252.47	Dow Jones Utilities	252.01	+5.14	+1.67	+17.88	+27.79	+27.79	+27.79
7,108.61	6,087.23	NASDAQ Composite	7,107.41	+73.90	+1.05	+18.28	+15.07	+15.07	+15.07
1,654.31	1,135.38	Amex Index	1,399.95	+6.37	+0.46	+18.22	+24.86	+24.86	+24.86
2,164.63	1,578.22	NYSE Composite	2,148.50	+47.30	+0.22	+17.24	+20.00	+20.00	+20.00
5,447.84	4,053.41	S&P 500	5,447.84	+47.30	+0.87	+17.24	+20.00	+20.00	+20.00
1,186.14	945.29	S&P MidCap	1,186.14	+47.30	+0.87	+17.24	+20.00	+20.00	+20.00
6,624.84	5,155.99	Russell 2000	6,624.84	+47.30	+0.87	+17.24	+20.00	+20.00	+20.00
11,786.14	10,445.15	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,786.14	+47.30	+0.87	+17.24	+20.00	+20.00	+20.00

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	Name	Vol	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
AltiMax Technology	17	66.40	+0.44	+15.8	Fidelity Investor-Growth	384.1	0.31	+0.1	+0.1
Boeing	1,000	52.67	+0.27	+2.8	Fidelity Investor-Growth	384.1	0.31	+0.1	+0.1
Boeing	1,000	52.67	+0.27	+2.8	Fidelity Investor-Growth	384.1	0.31	+0.1	+0.1
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THURSDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 16, 2004

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	•ESPNews Pacific Report	Two and a Half Men Enviya's beauty dumps her (CC)	Will & Grace A couple tries to buy a house (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)	
7	AFN-AT	(5:46) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	(3:55) Guiding Light (CC)	(1:17) General Hospital (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)			Legend of Tarzan (Part 1 of 2) (CC)	Aashi Real Moments (CC)	
8	NEWS	Harbail with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	60 Minutes (CC)	For and Friends				Fox and Friends	American Morning		
9	SPTS	(5:00) College Basketball On Demand (Northern, Taped)	•SportsCenter	•NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at San Antonio Spurs. From the SEC Center in San Antonio. (Taped)	•SportsCenter						•NASCAR Year in Review (CC)	
10	SPTS	The Simpsons Homer goes to work for goodies.	Everybody Loves Raymond Robert can't commit. (CC)	Summerland Derrick's friend appropriates a related picture of Ave. Braden asks for advice. (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
11	AFN-AT	SpongeBob Rugrats (CC)	That's So Raven All That "Beating John McVie" (1989) John McVie, Denny Laine, and... (CC)	The New 101 House Lance... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
12	AFN-AT	Evening News (5:30) *** "Bugsy" (1991, Drama) Harrison Ford, Kevin Spacey, Nigel H... (CC)	Primetime CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus. (CC)	The News The 101 House... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
13	TFM	(5:30) *** "Bugsy" (1991, Drama) Harrison Ford, Kevin Spacey, Nigel H... (CC)	Primetime CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus. (CC)	The News The 101 House... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
14	PBS	Dragon Tales Max's afraid to make a friend. (CC)	Zoom ice on beam. (CC) (OV)	The News The 101 House... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
15	SHOW	(1:5) "A Guy Thing" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Jason Lee, Julia Stiles, Selma... (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "X" A female inmate is found dead and tied to a prison bus. (CC)	The News The 101 House... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
16	A&E	City Limits An airline pilot takes a flight to Maine and is never heard from again. (CC)	American Justice "A Family Secret" The Death of Lisa Steinberg Heidi Nussbaum. (CC)	The News The 101 House... (CC)	The Practice The firm sues a corporation over the untimely death of a client's alcoholic son. (CC)	48 Hours Mystery (CC)	Friends Gang re-unites. Thanks to a... (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer gets into most... (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
17	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	
18	TFC	Wazz Up Wazz Up	Star Circle Guest	Maia-Mia Mo Kays (In Tagalog)	(1:5) Insider	Kumusta Kabyang			Morning Star	(4:0) Masayang Tanghal Bayan		
19	CNN+	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia		CNN World News	World Report	Biz Asia	Business International
20	GOLF	•Irish Open Highlights	•Playing Lessons From the Pros	•Golf With Style	•Big Break	•Golf Channel Academy	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Channel Academy	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central
21	TLC	Chain Saver A couple needs help with their guest room and office. (CC)	In a Fix Redecorating the basement. (CC)	Overhaul "Dude, Where's My Skyra... (CC)	Overhaul "Dude, Where's My Skyra... (CC)	Material Witness A woman disappears in 1982 New York; police track a cold-blooded killer over six... (CC)						
22	TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Codename: Kids Next Door	Justice League	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts	Looney Tunes	I Am Weasel	What a Cartoon Show	Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!
23	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Reptiles of the Great Sandpiper Crocodiles and lizards. (CC)	Most Extreme Lovers Mating in the animal world. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)	Pet Star The Road to Pet Star Auditions for talented pets are staged across America. (CC)
24	COM	100 Greatest Stand-Ups (Part 4 of 5) (CC)	The Daily Show Christopher... (CC)	Mad TV Reggie Hibbert, Tony Hawk, (CC)	Crank Yankers Ennui makes... (CC)	Reno 911 The FBI Big... (CC)	South Park Big... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Animal Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)
25	NOCA	Riddles of the Dead "Brain Grinders" How some of the earliest Americans... (CC)	Snake Wranglers Hunt for dangerous... (CC)	Croc Chronicles Alfrican... (CC)	Build for the Kill Croc Predators of cold climates. (CC)	Secret China China's... (CC)	South Park Big... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Animal Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)
26	FOX	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Buried in Proof" (CC)
27	SPKE	Remington Steele (CC)	St. Elsewhere (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)	The Investigators "Love and Murder" Hired murder... (CC)
28	BET	106 & Park BET's Top 10 Live Onman video. (Live)	BET Style	The Parkers (CC)	Girlfriends (CC)	North Shore Jason's ship has caused... (CC)	South Park Big... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Animal Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon shorts... (CC)
29	COURT	NYPD Blue A missing person case is reported when a small body is found buried in a... (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	•Christmas in My Hometown (1998, Drama) Melissa Gilbert, Tim Matheson, Travis Tritt. An executive controls the fate of a small town's economy. (CC)	Santa Claus is Coming to Town (1959, Musical) Beverly Hills... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)	•A Christmas Remembrance (1994, Drama) Dana Delany, Gregory H... (CC)
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UVA investigation

VA RICHMOND — Federal education officials are investigating a complaint that the University of Virginia's undergraduate admissions policy discriminates against white applicants.

The complaint was filed after the Charlottesville university denied admission to a white male student from York for a spot in the fall 2003 incoming class.

"Many kids with far less qualifications had already been accepted to the university in the name of diversity," the student's father said in the complaint. "If my son had been a girl or a minority with his grades, test scores and extracurricular activities he would have been admitted to the University on his own with no problem."

U.Va. spokeswoman Carol Wood declined to discuss the investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's civil-rights office. She said, however, that diversity is one of many factors the university uses in determining admission.

Stopping meds blamed

MN MINNEAPOLIS — When the Rev. Joe Roberson heard that his grandson was accused of running the streets naked and scuffling with police, he had a good guess at what happened.

"I believe he just quit taking his medications," Roberson said about his grandson, Michael Porter, 19, who was seriously injured when a police dog bit him in the groin.

Porter, who remains in serious condition, was eventually subdued with a Taser gun.

Roberson said Porter had been taking medication to help him cope with his father's unexpected death about two years ago. Porter has been charged with four counts of felony assault and gross misdemeanor assault. He is accused of wandering through Minneapolis streets, sometimes wearing only a robe, at other times wearing nothing.

Expensive legal fees

VA CHESAPEAKE — The city's successful defense of lawsuits accusing officials of failing to warn pregnant women about a harmful byproduct in Chesapeake tap water totaled \$2.4 million, according to documents released by the city.

All but \$300,000 went to pay two law firms: Williams Mullen, which has offices in Virginia Beach, and Breedon, Salb, Beasley & Duvall of Norfolk.

The firms began defending the city four years ago against hundreds of individual civil suits that collectively were seeking an estimated \$1.8 billion from the city. The cases never made it to trial.

Last month, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that Chesapeake was immune from such lawsuits.

Fire on the set

AZ TUCSON — A fire broke out on the set of a TV movie being filmed at the Tucson Convention Center, injuring five people



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

and forcing the evacuation of thousands arriving for a concert in another part of the building.

The fire started on the set of ABC's "Desperation," written by horror writer Stephen King. It damaged the set, made to look like a mine shaft, but not the convention center.

Three people were injured by falling debris and received first- and second-degree burns on their faces and hands. They were taken to hospitals. Two others were treated for smoke inhalation, according to fire officials.

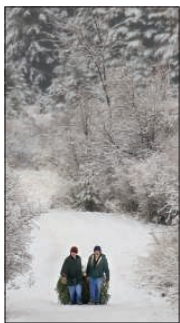
The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Program losing money

WY CHEYENNE — The University of Wyoming's family practice residency programs in Casper and Cheyenne are losing \$1 million a year and do not offer high enough pay to attract top quality applicants, UW President Philip Dubois told a legislative committee. Dubois is asking lawmakers for about \$2.5 million to help the programs.

Bare-bones crossing

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration proposed abandoning an expensive suspension design for the eastern stretch of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay



Christmas plunder

Philip J. VanVleet, left, and his father, Phil C. VanVleet, of Hannawa Falls, N.Y., pull their Christmas tree out of the woods after it was cut fresh at the Van deWater tree farm in Canton, N.Y.

Bridge in favor of a plainer, cheaper concrete skyway.

"We need a safe bridge completed as soon as possible at a reasonable cost," said Sunne Wright McPeak, secretary of California's Business, Housing and Transportation Agency. "This is a time of very constrained resources for the state of California."

The bare-bones skyway design could shave between \$300 million and \$400 million off a project whose price tag ballooned from \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, McPeak said. She predicted the bridge could be completed by 2011 or 2012.

At issue is a 2,100-foot stretch of the bridge's eastern span that will connect Yerba Buena Island to a 1.5-mile-long concrete skyway already under construction.

Man gets 6 years in jail

MD BALTIMORE — A judge ordered a six-year sentence for a man who shot and killed a 15-year-old boy who was allegedly trying to steal a bicycle from the man's home.

Edward Day, 57, tearfully told Baltimore Circuit Judge John Glynn that he did not intend to shoot David Stewart with a double-barrel shotgun in the July 2002 incident.

Glynn sentenced Day to 13 years in prison, suspending all but six years. Day will get credit for having served two years and five months, mostly in home confinement.

Day had pleaded guilty to manslaughter and a weapon charge in the fatal shooting. Prosecutor Wes Adams described the shooting as an act of "impulsive, angry, intentional behavior."

Defense attorney Kenneth Ravenell argued for leniency, describing Day as a Vietnam veteran who was badly affected by his time in the war.

Grant money returned

MO KANSAS CITY — An agency that runs Head Start for thousands of low-income preschoolers with an \$18 million federal grant has relinquished the funds after audits revealed the agency was millions of dollars in debt, officials said.

Without the Head Start component of its \$28 million budget, KCMC Child Development Corp. — which also provides nutrition, day care and summer school programs with other funding — probably will have to close, the agency's board chairman said.

Stirred about shaking

CT SOUTHBURY — No matter what the deal, don't expect this city official to shake on it.

First Selectman Mark Cooper held a news conference to announce that he won't be shaking hands with anyone until flu season is over sometime next year.

Cooper said if anyone offers their hand, he will politely decline and give them a brochure on how to stay healthy this winter. He says he wants to set an example by limiting his contact with people.

"Flu season has started, and I don't want to pass along those germs," he said.



Braving the winter

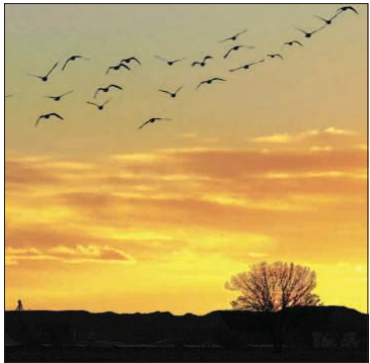
of Kalispell, Mont.

Snow rests on thick canvas coats worn by merino sheep in a field west



In the line of duty

Spencer, Wis., firefighter Derek Griepentrog works on the roof of Randy and Pat Kilmer's home after a fire started in their home.



Taking flight

Arena in Miles City, Mont.

Geese take flight at sunset above the Miles Community College Rodeo



Wild imaginations

Kindergartners, from left, Kieara Bryant, Asia Woodley, Cheyanne Ainesworth, Taylor Zamora, Lacey Smith and Brooklyn O'Daniel use their imaginations to ride the Polar Express down a hill at Eisenhower Elementary School in Independence, Kan.



Cookie monsters

First-grader Cady Thomas slides a reindeer cookie to a classmate to be completed as Cameron DeKuiper works on the deer antlers in Ludington, Mich.



Best kind of delivery

Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas.

Air Force Pave Hawk crewmember Staff Sgt. Leonardo Cruz starts unloading a delivery of toys for the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program at

Doctor indicted

TX DALLAS — A doctor under investigation for as many as 11 patient deaths was indicted on three felony counts of prescribing drugs without a medical purpose, prosecutors said.

Several patients of Dr. Daniel Maynard, ranging in age from 29 to 62, died of drug overdoses, toxic effects of mixed drugs and congestive heart failure, authorities have said.

Maynard wrote nearly 55,000 prescriptions in 2002, records show.

That year he wrote more prescriptions for the sedative diazepam than any other Texas doctor, and the second-most prescriptions for Tylenol with the narcotic codeine, according to the records.

A spokeswoman for the Dallas County district attorney's office said the investigation of Maynard was continuing.

Police raided the osteopath's Dallas home and clinic in October 2003 to seize patients' records. The state medical board stripped Maynard of his license to practice a few days later.

Drought fears eased

CO DENVER — The state appears to be bouncing back from five-year drought, thanks in part to above-average snowpack that has been good news for farmers and skiers alike.

"I think it is too early to say the drought is over. But now I would bet against it becoming a 10- or 20-year drought," federal climatologist Klaus Wolter said.

The Upper Colorado River basin was at 110 percent of average, the South Platte, a major source of water for Denver and northeast Colorado, was at 112 percent, and the Yampa-White River basin in northwest was at 111 percent. Even the hardest-hit part of Colorado, in the southwest, is improving.

Drugged moms bill

IN LEBANON — State Rep. Jeff Thompson and State Sen. Jeff Drozda are sponsoring a bill that would allow prosecutors to charge women who are on drugs while giving birth and pass the narcotic to their babies.

Currently, authorities can only ask a judge to remove the child from the home, Thompson said he'd like to see the crime become a felony, but the bill would be easier to pass through the legislature as a misdemeanor.

Reward value raised

CT NEW HAVEN — The reward for a key suspect in a 1983 Wells Fargo robbery was raised to \$1 million, the FBI said. The agency is seeking Victor Manuel Gerena, a former Wells Fargo guard accused in the \$7 million armored car robbery in West Hartford. The robbery was allegedly carried out by 16 members of a Puerto Rican nationalist group.

Man burned in home fire

KY OWENSBORO — Henry Head Jr., 41, was treated for severe burns after a fire at his home, where investigators found items used for meth-making. Daviess County sheriff's Detective Bill Thompson said investigators

found material often used for manufacturing methamphetamine. Head already pleaded guilty to first-degree possession of a controlled substance and possession of methamphetamine in September.

Water protection

VT MONTPELIER — Two environmental groups want special protection for more than 60 bodies of water in the Green Mountain National Forest, but the requests are generating opposition.

The state Natural Resources Agency, representatives of the timber and ski industries and the U.S. Forest Service say they're not sure the extra protection is necessary.

"We're really surprised at the level of opposition, that there isn't more support," said Jamey Fidel of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

The council and the Conservation Law Foundation are advocating for stronger conservation promises on the lakes, ponds, brooks and wetlands.

Metro budget plan

DC WASHINGTON — For the first time in the transit agency's history, Metro management unveiled a budget plan that tops \$1 billion. The budget does not increase riders' fares, but does call for a considerable payment increase from jurisdictions served by Metro. General Manager Richard White said most of the growth in expenses is due to new programs and increases in payroll, pensions and fuel costs.

Death investigated

AZ PHOENIX — Kevin Keogh, the city's longtime finance director, died after apparently falling or jumping from a moving car. Witnesses told police that Keogh, 51, climbed onto the top of his moving Mercedes-Benz, stretched out his arms and then jumped or fell. Investigators don't know whether the death was intentional, but the cruise control was set at about 50 mph.

Church consolidation

LA LE MARS — A shortage of priests will force six Roman Catholic Churches to consolidate into one central parish in Le Mars. The six current churches would close after the construction of a new church that may seat 1,000. All four priests currently serving the churches have endorsed the proposal. The consolidation allows for two priests to serve the new parish.

Harbor spill

MA BARNSTABLE — A man suffered a fatal heart attack while refueling a ferry, resulting in a spill that dumped nearly 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel into Annis Harbor, a Coast Guard official said.

The man was gassing up the Grey Lady, a high-speed ferry operated by Hy-Line Cruises between Cape Cod and Nantucket.

According to Chief Petty Officer David Gilbert, he had a heart attack and died, but the fuel kept flowing, dumping an estimated 1,900 gallons into the harbor.

The harbor was closed and a containment boom was placed around the spill.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

A nation's gratitude to the families of 9/11

BY CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
AND CAROLYN MALONEY

Congress finally passed historic legislation last week to overhaul the nation's intelligence system. Members of the Sept. 11 commission, who spent nearly two years investigating the government's failure to detect that massive terrorist plot, believe the legislation contains the most important reforms the government can enact to prevent future terrorism against the country.

Even so, the bill faced strong opposition, both in public and in the back rooms of Congress. A fierce fight against reform is all but guaranteed in the halls of government whenever changes of such magnitude are sought in Washington. In this battle for reform, however, there was a force greater than the inertia of the status quo.

While many deserve credit for the coming sea change in our intelligence system, including members of the Sept. 11 commission, no one deserves the country's gratitude more than the determined family members of those killed in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

They turned their grief and anger into vehicles for change, and in so doing they helped successfully make America safer and stronger for generations.

Just imagine for a moment being called "a 9/11 family member." On its own the label is a burden no one would want to carry. These families carried that burden further than any of us could imagine.

They stood up time and again in public and in the offices of powerful national leaders, conveying their personal loss and their belief that no American family should ever endure a loss like the one they experienced on Sept. 11. They did all this to compel our government to join their fight for a safer America.

While not all family members were involved, and while those who stood up for reform expressed differences over the preferred final version of the legislation, no one can deny the power of their collective voices in keeping this legislation rolling forward.

The Sept. 11 commission, because of the administration's initial opposition to it, would not have been created had it not been for the pressure exerted by 9/11 families. The commission would have been underfunded and denied subpoena power as well, if the families had not intervened. When the bureaucracy sought to deny the information the commission needed, the families again were unafraid to exert pressure on the president and Congress to

do the right thing. When the commission sought an extension to complete its work in a thorough way, the 9/11 families did not rest until those who sought a premature end to the commission backed down.

And finally, after the release of the commission's report and recommendations, these same family members led the effort to make the recommendations the law of our land. When they thought their work was done this past summer, they had to roll up their sleeves again and fight right until the last moment to get it done. As a last effort, many of the 9/11 family members held vigil day after day, at Ground Zero and in cities across the country, as Congress neared the end of its session. For these families, this legislation was about far more than intelligence reform, it was about fighting terrorism on every front, achieving lasting change after suffering unforgettable losses.

We believe this intelligence reform legislation, so crucial to the future safety of the American people, would not have seen the light of day without the tireless effort of the family members who lost loved ones on Sept. 11. The leaders of this tremendous effort deserve recognition: Carol Ashley, mother of Janice Ashley; Kristine Breitwieser, wife of Ronald Breit-



weiser; Patty Casazza, wife of John F. Casazza; Beverly Eckert, wife of Sean Rooney; Mary Fletcher, mother of Bradley James Fletcher; Monica Gabrielle, wife of Richard Gabrielle; Bill Harvey, husband of Sara Manley Harvey; Mindy Kleinberg, wife of Alan Kleinberg; Carl Lemack, daughter of Judy Larocque; Steve Push, husband of Lisa J. Raines; Sally Regenhard, mother of Chris-

tian Michael Otto Regenhard; Lorie Van Auker, wife of Kenneth Van Auker; and Robin Wiener, sister of Jeffrey Wiener.

We hope we speak for the nation when we express our gratitude, our respect, and our deepest appreciation for the 9/11 families' devotion to our country's safety.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., are co-founders of the 9/11 Commission Caucus in the House of Representatives.

Russia can't keep cloak-and-dagger ways under wraps

BY FRED HIATT
The Washington Post

Many experts have speculated about why President Vladimir Putin and his narrow circle seem so determined to lead Russia in a self-defeating direction. Explanations range from misplaced imperial nostalgia to personal insecurity and a need for approval to an overvalued respect for Russians' understandable desire for stability. Increasingly, though, it seems another, perhaps more rational, motive should not be excluded: simple thievery.

As to the misrule, there can no longer be much doubt. Russia continues to benefit from high oil prices, the salvation of incompetent rulers all over the world, but on the most fundamental score card — demography — Russia faces catastrophe. Its population is dwindling; in just the first eight months of this year, its population declined by a half-million. The population is forecast to fall from 150 million when the Soviet Union collapsed to 120 million by 2030.

Mortality rates in particular have exploded, and life expectancy is lower than it was 40 years ago. AIDS and tuberculosis could make matters far worse; yet Putin pays no attention to these incipient epidemics and not much to the blossoming epidemic of alcoholism.

The stifling of political and civic freedom under Putin is well-chronicle. Television is again state-controlled, power is concentrated in the Kremlin, the renamed KGB harasses academics and citizen-advocates. The regime is beginning to isolate itself internationally, too. At a forum of European and North American nations last week, Russia put itself in the remarkably Cold War position of vetoing a measure supporting Ukrainian democracy that the Ukrainians themselves put forward. Russia's only ally was Europe's only total dictatorship, Belarus.

None of this is remotely in ordinary Russians' interest, nor did it seem inevitable 10 or even five years ago. Then, many Russian leaders understood that they had wanted to fear and much to gain from living in a rule-based society, with democratic neighbors and growing ties to Europe. Reformers in Putin's government believed he wanted to move toward a nation governed by law, not fear or personal whim.

What happened? No doubt deep-seated habits of totalitarian thinking, superpower envy and secret-police paranoia have played a role. But so, perhaps, at least among some Kremlin insiders, has the lure of riches — the temptation of property redistribution. At least it's hard not to entertain such thoughts as the destruction of Yukos Oil Co. unfolds. This was Russia's most-profitable and most-efficient energy company until its chief was put in prison more than 13 months ago. Since then it has been socked with one tax bill after another — the most recent last

week — until its bills to the government for 2001 and 2002 now exceed its revenue for those years, according to its American chief executive, Steven Theodore.

Yet the government shows no interest in negotiating a payment schedule, Theodore says. Instead, it has scheduled an auction of Yukos' core assets for Sunday, with a government-controlled company quite likely the only bidder, at a price as low as one-third of the assets' real worth. It's "illegal expropriation," in Theodore's words.

Some investors hope the gangster tactics will cease once Yukos is gone. But just last week tax authorities sent a \$158 million tax bill to a cell phone company that has been feuding with the telecommunications minister, who allegedly he denies it has a financial interest in a competitor. (The tax authorities, at least showing a sense of humor, sent a \$3 million bill to the competing company.)

The government in neighboring Ukraine had been running affairs the same way, sell-

ing off valuable assets to privileged insiders, and democrats there see a connection between Putin's support of Ukraine's government-backed candidate in recent elections and the similarity in economic systems. "What they have created in Russia is state capitalism," says Oleh Rybachuk, chief of staff to reform candidate Viktor Yushchenko in Ukraine, and an end to corruption in Ukraine would be "a vital danger" to that system.

The stifling of free press and political opposition in Russia may have been undertaken for other reasons, but it certainly facilitates Yukos-style official thievery. Who now dares object? And here's the most depressing part: Once a regime becomes hooked on expropriation, no matter how gussied up with legal niceties, it can never voluntarily give up power... Even if thievery was not the original goal, the criminal regime consumes all else.

Fred Hiatt is editor of The Post's editorial page.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Horoscope

Love planet Venus embraces the realm of Sagittarius, where it will languish until the second week of January. We're like curious

Love planet Venus embraces the realm of Sagittarius, where it will languish until the second week of January. We're like curious

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(December 16). You're sure of yourself this year — confidence carries you into situations you could only

speculate about in years past. Increased career demands in the new year are a good thing, giving you the opportunity to show you're worthy of a better position. Love is fulfilling and comfortable until May, when you turn into an infatuated teen again! Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 50, 33 and 21.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're not acting out of your own need to succeed; you're performing for those around you. Whatever the motivation, it causes you to push yourself. You'll be an inspiration to that perpetual underachiever you know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Colleagues could treat you as a freshman — how annoying, especially considering that you're the one with all the experience. When you focus on what you know, instead of on how others treat you, it is a source of pride.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

If others look at you sideways, pay them no mind. You're a self-taught person and therefore have a unique way of solving problems. Singles meet love while helping a friend or boss.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An experimental mood has you feeling flippancy, clever and playful! You'll get a crash course in romantic communication and learn very quickly what works — and what never to say again!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

barred with too much information, you're disarming, objective and fair. You'll be exposed to propaganda. It's your job to make sure the more glib people around you aren't duped.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

If today were a pairing, it would be a slick piece of pop art. You'll be seduced by glamour, commercialism and celebrity — but at the same time, something deeper in you longs for substance. Reach to loved ones to get grounded.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're not a cartoon character now, after being flattened by a steamroller, arrives in the next scene back to normal again. You're fresh and brave and spirit — you require a recovery period! Give it to yourself!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Loved ones have you doing acrobatics in order to get the validation you desire. Consider the lengths you'll go to for something you could possibly provide for yourself. What would it take for you to love yourself more?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You're deep, so you see depth in things that other people can only see in one dimension. It's remarkable how you can turn the most menial of jobs into a trip through the grand amusement park of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You may be accident prone, so keep your mind on the task at hand. You're also vulnerable to happy mistakes — the kind that land you in a much better position than the one you intended.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

A penchant for overblown passion is featured. But your relationship doesn't deserve or need the flash of drama. Exercise the feeling by reading a romance novel while listening to a Liberace record.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Dare to make new requirements of your friends, your customers and the people who help you maintain your lifestyle. What would happen if you expected 10 percent more integrity and heart from these folks?

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



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Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

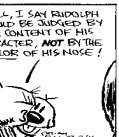
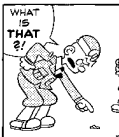
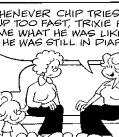
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



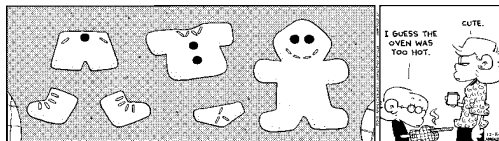
Peanuts



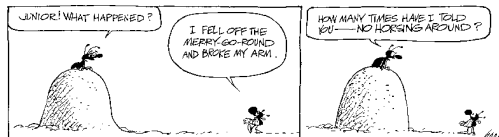
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Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



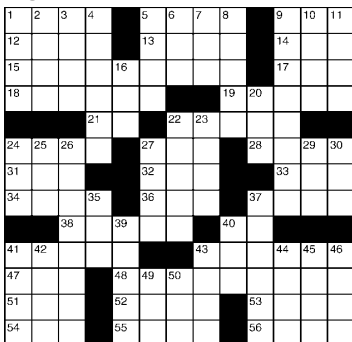
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Indy circuits
5 Minus
9 Pooch
12 Settled down
13 "— You Babe"
14 Spacewalk acronym
15 Moses' armload
17 Scoundrel
18 Toadies
19 Spacious
21 Old man
22 1982 Barry Levinson movie
24 Lather
27 Starred
28 Engrossed
31 Multipurpose truck
32 Trick taker, usually
33 Afternoon social
34 Fugue composer
36 Off-tattooed word
37 Average
38 Special-interest group
40 Two (Pref.)
41 Farewell
43 Longing
47 Heavy weight
48 Shedding seasonally
51 Raw rock
52 Morse
53 Dance lesson
54 Frenzied

- 55 Barely gets by, with "out"
56 Uncomplicated

Down

- 1 Woman
2 Sheltered
3 Snapshots
4 Postage
5 "The — King"
6 Early bird
7 Old French coin
8 Unrelenting
9 Adorn
10 Latin 6-Down
11 Indiana city
16 Actress
Thompson
20 "— the ramparts ..."
22 Fake Drake
23 The same (Lat.)
24 U-boat
25 Actress Hagen
26 Just said no
27 Easter entree
29 Shell-game prop
30 Treat hides
35 Weeding tool
37 Handle
38 wrongly
39 Move a bit
40 Foundation
41 Power source
42 "David Copperfield" wife
43 Lowers the lights
44 Scintilla
45 Wishes undone
46 Catch sight of
49 Wapiti
50 Prompt

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-16

CRYPTOQUIP

XPEUI PT XPO TEPW N
TNLZLRA ULOBOE WLAJB
FO "N XNLB LI N BOEELFZO
BJLRA BP WLRU."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ASKED MY HORSE IF HE'D LIKE SOME MORE HAY. "NO THANK YOU, I'M ALREADY STUFFED."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals W

Eavesdroppers can be toyed with

Dear Abby: My husband took me out to an expensive restaurant. As we chatted over dinner, we realized that the couple next to us was eavesdropping on our conversation. They could hear everything we were saying. They kept turning their heads and looking straight at us. They even tried to peek when the check came.

My husband and I tried to ignore it, however, it put a damper on our nice evening. How should we tell nosy "dinner conversation" or our dinner conversation?

— Conversationally Speaking in Delaware

Dear Conversationally Speaking: You and your husband missed an opportunity to have some fun. If you invent wild enough dialogue, the reaction can be funnier than a floor show. You could have raised your voices just a bit and began discussing how you were going to spend the "drug money" — or which girl you wanted to send on the next "call." Short of

asking to be seated at another table, there is no foolproof way to discourage nosy eavesdroppers.

Dear Abby: My letter is in response to the one from the neighbors who complained about the noise their neighbor's children made playing basketball in the yard.

As a boy, many years ago, I probably annoyed our neighbors the same way. Now that boy has grown into a man, who has taken care of literally thousands of people in his practice of behavioral pediatrics.

Experience tells me that if all youngsters would be outside playing basketball or any other activity of exertion, we would have far fewer academic and behavioral problems.

Approximately 75 percent of my patients never go outside to play. Many of them are addicted to video games, and some to television. The ramifications of this addiction are enormous.



Dear Abby

Matchmakers won't give it a rest

Dear Annie: I'm gay and have been in a loving relationship for over 20 years. My partner and I are only in our early 40s, but I know I have my soul mate and wish for no other. We are quiet, reserved types with no obvious traditional signs of attachment.

For most of our relationship, we have dreaded the inevitable questions: "Are you married?" and so forth. We usually respond "no" and leave it at that. We don't wish to elaborate. Frequently, though, this doesn't stop the matchmakers who are keen to introduce us to their single, female friends. We have found that however we answer, the matchmaker always reacts negatively.

Our relationship is not a secret, but private. We generally do not volunteer that we are a couple except in appropriate environments, because we can't be sure if our new (presumably straight) acquaintances will react positively. We simply don't find it necessary to let people know we're

Annie's Mailbox



anything other than roommates, and many acquaintances are very surprised when they learn the truth.

What can we say to these matchmakers who seem well-meaning, but are ultimately insensitive and prying?

— Won't Give the Game Away

Dear Gamer: Your signature indicates that you are not entirely comfortable being out of the closet, but that's your call. Most people would suspect that a man in his 40s who's been roommates with "Joe" for 20 years may be gay. For the clueless-yet-persistent matchmakers, simply say, "Thanks, but I'm already spoken for." Then excuse yourself and walk away.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter about an 8-year-old who was sexually harassed in school. I have an 8-year-old daughter who has sexually harassed others at her school. She is not a bully

nor was she abused. She has a neurological condition called Early Onset Bipolar Disorder.

Most people think bipolar means up-and-down moods. While this is true, the illness is neurologically based and, especially in children, can have many different symptoms, including inappropriate sexual behavior.

My daughter has taken medication since she was 4. It helps considerably, but she has occasional periods of instability.

For more information, please check out the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation (www.bpkids.org), for parents of children who are bipolar, at 1000 Skokie Blvd., Suite 425, Wilmette, IL 60091.

— Bipolar Mom

Dear Mom: We hope your daughter's school has educated the other parents to be understanding about your situation.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers Syndicate. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ENSOO

YURLS

GROJAN

FLUDON

A: THE

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CHUTE PLUME SHOULD WHEEZE

Answer: What the pie-eating champ did to the competition — CHEWED THEM UP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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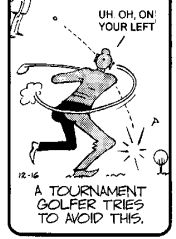
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

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GRAFFITI

Remember when cable TV was a luxury?

NBA 1976

Dennis the Menace

© Gary Larson

The Far Side

"BY THE WAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING YOUR SUIT DIRTY. WE HAD OUR CHIMNEY CLEANER."

Non Sequiter

"Excuse me, sir, but Shinkowsky keeps stepping on the back of my sandal."

Non Sequiter

"I THINK IT'S TIME WE STOPPED HAVING OUR BOARD MEETINGS ON CHURCH FRIDAY."

You can't put a price on freedom.
Neither did we.

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Celebrate December with your Yokosuka MWR

Club Takemiya 246-8075

Eat What You Want Day December 16

Order three or more entrées or specials and receive 25 percent off your total tab.

Soul Train Night XXXVIII Christmas Party December 25 from 2100 to 0200

Join us for a special Christmas celebration featuring a "Soul Train line" dance contest with prize giveaways for first, second and third place winners, prize drawings and our top DJ playing all of your favorite jams from the 70s to the 90s.

Boxing Day Special December 26 from 1030 to 1330

Celebrate this special day with prize giveaways all day and chances to receive up to 50 percent off your tab. Enjoy our Day-After Christmas brunch with a mouth-watering buffet including Honey Glazed Ham, Roast Beef, Home-Baked Macaroni and Cheese and more for \$12.95 Adult, \$6.95 Child 12 years of age and under. At 1800 enjoy a Kernel Popcorn performance.

Club Alliance 243-5951

Attitude Adjustment Fridays from 1700 to 1900

Upper Deck Sports Bar

Japan Jam Comedians December 16 at 1900

Featuring Scott White and Mike Merryfield

Christmas Eve Holiday Celebration December 24 from 2100 to 0200

Join us as we party the night away with our DJ playing all of your favorite jams and free finger food, too.

Bingo! Join us at Club Alliance Every Saturday

at 1200 for your chance to take home grand prizes of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 and a guaranteed \$ 1,000 giveaway for the last game. Can't wait till the weekend? Then join us at the CPO Club every Tuesday & Thursday at 1800

#1138

Negishi Club 242-4151

Mexican Platter Fridays

Sunday Brunch Sundays from 0900 to 1400

Enjoy a relaxing break with delicious food. Adult \$7.95. Child \$4.

Mongolian Barbeque Tuesdays

Holiday Meals December 25

Enjoy a holiday breakfast from 0900 to 1100. Later on, enjoy our Christmas buffet featuring roast turkey with all the trimmings from 1200 to 2000 for \$11.95 adult and \$5.95 child 5 to 11.

Officers' Club 243-5002

Christmas Day Dinner Feast December 25 from 1500 to 2000 at Kosano Dining Room

Don't miss this fabulous holiday all you can eat buffet feast including turkey and all of the trimmings. Bring the entire family and get mom out of the kitchen on this special day. Reservations recommended. Adult \$14.95, child 8 to 11 \$7.95, Child 4 to 7 \$5.95.

Christmas Brunch Extravaganza December 26 from 0900 to 1330

Enjoy a magnificent brunch with all of these delicious favorites you have come to expect complete with champagne. An added bonus is entertainment provided by balloon artist and magician Kernel Popcorn. Please call for details.

Seaside Club 243-3379

Customer Appreciation Day December 21 from 1100 to 1330

Join us for our lunch buffet including hot/iced tea, soda, coffee, juice, milk or hot chocolate for only \$5 per person.

Family Night December 24 from 1700 to 2100

Take your family out for dinner and receive a 10 percent discount on your entire tab. Children 11 years of age and under receive a free balloon too.

CPO Club 243-5606

Winter Begins Today Day December 21

Receive 50 percent off all a la carte dessert selections and celebrate with a free cup of coffee or tea to warm you up during dinner hours only.

Christmas Eve Buffet December 24 from 1200 to 1900

Enjoy a delicious selection of salads, appetizers, turkey, ham, roast beef entrees, seafood and a yummy selection of cakes, pies and sweets for only \$14.95 per person.



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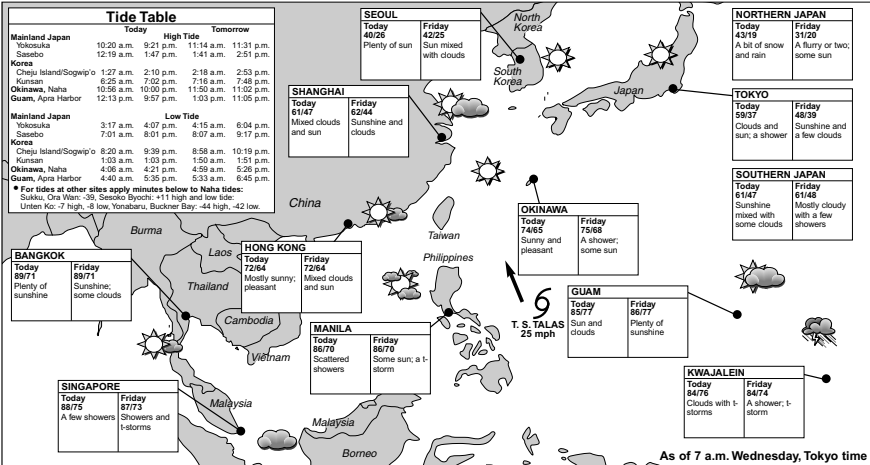


The Pacific Forecast

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	Today		Tomorrow	
Mainland Japan				
Yokosuka	10:20	9:21	11:14	11:31
Sasebo	12:19	1:47	1:41	2:51
Korea				
Island/Sogip/Isle	7:21	2:10	2:18	2:53
Kunmin	6:25	7:02	7:16	7:48
Okunawa, Naha	10:10	10:21	11:50	11:52
Gura, Apia Harbor	12:13	9:57	10:33	11:05
Mainland Japan				
Yokosuka	3:17	4:07	4:15	6:04
Sasebo	7:01	8:01	8:07	9:17
Korea				
Island/Sogip/Isle	8:20	9:39	8:58	10:19
Kunmin	1:03	1:03	1:50	1:51
Okunawa, Naha	10:10	10:21	11:50	11:52
Gura, Apia Harbor	4:40	5:35	5:33	6:45

***For rides at other than specified times apply to Naha: rides**
 Surtko, On Water - 30, Sasebo - 30, Apia Harbor - 30, Okunawa and Kid
 Under K - 7 high, 8 low, Yokosuka - Buckner Bay - 44 high, 42 low



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Saturday: Showers, high 56, low 47.
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 54, low 41.

KADENA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
high 76, low 65.
Sunday: Partly sunny,
high 74, low 65.

SEOUL

Saturday: Partly sunny,
high 39, low 16.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 32, low 13.

MANILA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,
high 86, low 69.
Sunday: Mostly cloudy,
high 85, low 70.

HAGATNA

Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 77.
Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 84, low 75.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

City	HIGLOW	City	HIGLOW
Albuquerque	4/2/28	Los Angeles	7/8/53
Amarillo	4/7/24	Little Rock	4/11/17
Anchorage	3/31/16	Louisville	3/31/16
Cheshire	3/31/16	Madison	7/1/50
Baltimore	4/02/24	Madwaukee	3/28/17
Birmingham	4/01/18	Nashville	2/4/17
Bismarck	4/6/25	New York	3/31/16
Boston	5/03/24	Omaha	7/22/52
Boston	3/71/18	Orlando	5/9/36
Brownsville	6/23/18	Phoenix	4/11/22
Buffalo	2/2/38	Philadelphia	7/1/52
Butte	2/14/28	Pittsburgh	4/11/22
Charleston, SC	5/02/24	Portland, OR	5/53/38
Charlotte	4/30/24	Portland, ME	30/10
Chicago	2/30/18	Portland, Lake City	7/1/52
Columbus, OH	3/01/18	St. Louis	3/21/16
Duluth	3/2/18	San Antonio	5/52/28
El Paso	5/1/26	San Diego	7/15/54
El Paso	3/31/18	San Juan	7/1/52
Helena	4/4/29	Tampa	6/13/36
Indianapolis	29/15	Tulsa	4/22/24
Indianapolis	5/12/24	Washington	7/1/54
Kansas City	3/5/22	Wichita	4/02/20

Thursday, December 16



U.S. Extended Forecast

High pressure shifting into the Southeast on Thursday will provide welcome relief from the cold for the Northeast as winds shift to a more westerly direction and produce warmer temperatures for much of the region. A storm system moving across the Great Lakes will bring a mix of rain and snow to the Midwest as the associated cold front collects moisture from the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico. The western Gulf Coast will get a few showers as moisture is drawn into the Southern states. An area of low pressure tracking up the Atlantic coast Friday may provide snow or mixed precipitation to the mid-Atlantic states and New England if it continues to hug the coastline.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/71	Iwakuni	61/41
Beijing	41/27	Kadena AB	74/65
Camp Casey	42/27	Kunsan AB	48/36
Christchurch	55/40	Kwajalein	84/76
Diego Garcia	87/79	Manila	86/70
Hagatna	85/77	Misawa AB	44/19
Hanoi	75/63	Osan	43/29
Hong Kong	72/64	Pertth	86/61
Hongtulu	82/66	Pusan	53/37

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	86/72	Budapest	41/34	Kabul	54/31	Nairobi	81/55
Athens	51/41	Buenos Aires	79/64	Kiev	34/26	New Delhi	84/56
Auckland	66/50	Cairo	60/40	Kuwait	62/34	Oslo	40/36
Baghdad	47/38	Caracas	73/60	Lima	50/38	Paris	48/36
Barbados	85/69	Cape Town	85/63	Madrid	53/42	Rio de Janeiro	78/69
Barcelona	53/43	Geneva	44/33	Mexico City	61/46	Rome	53/49
Berlin	44/34	Istanbul	52/35	Montreal	31/16	St. Petersburg	36/30
Bombay	58/45	Jerusalem	52/35	Moscow	52/35	Tokyo	56/39
Brussels	48/36	Johannesburg	81/54	Moscow	29/22	Warsaw	40/30



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HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Panthers' Jackson has interior motives

Kadena junior on a mission to rule the lane

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — During the flight home to Okinawa from the Hong Kong basketball tournament, Zaire Jackson stowed.

His Kadena Panthers had performed well during the event on Thanksgiving weekend, but not as well as they had hoped. They finished third.

Losses to St. Mary's International of Tokyo and Singapore American and an excruciating 76-72 defeat to Kadena's hated Okinawa rival Kubasaki, burned in Jackson's memory.

"It lit a fire under me, and it's still lit," Jackson said.

Ever since, said his coach Robert Bliss, the 6-foot-3 junior has "been on a mission."

The latest results from his mission: 87 points, 44 rebounds and 11 blocked shots in Kadena's past two games, a 95-79 win over Japanese team Maehara Dec. 4 and a 103-93 revenge triumph over the Dragons last Friday.

"That we knew we could have finished first in Hong Kong and we didn't" is stoking such blazing performances, Jackson said.

"He has stepped it up a notch," Bliss said. "We had trouble in Hong Kong finishing games. I think it's something he doesn't want to repeat."

Kadena (6-3) has won five consecutive games, and Jackson predicts, "This is going to carry through the rest of the season."

It's also the play Bliss expected from Jackson since he arrived for the 2003-04 season when his father, Air Force Master Sgt. Anthony Jones, was transferred to Kadena's 353rd Special Operations Group from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Jackson played a season at Crestwood High, in Columbia, S.C., before arriving at Kadena and immediately securing a spot in the lineup.

The Panthers farred well last season, finishing 15-12, including a season sweep of Kubasaki, but they did not place in last February's Far East Class AA Tournament.

"When we went to Far East, we had too many mental breakdowns and I was in-



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena forward Zaire Jackson (33) has averaged 26.1 points and 17.6 rebounds per game, and in his past two games racked up 87 points, 44 rebounds and 11 blocked shots.

jured, too," Jackson recalled. "We could have done a better."

He set about changing that in Kadena's first game this season, a 108-64 romp over Naha High, a Japanese team. In just two quarters, Jackson had 27 points and 14 rebounds.

In Hong Kong, Jackson averaged 21.8 points and 15 rebounds in six games, help-

ing Kadena rebound from the losses with three straight wins.

Then came the astounding totals he posted in the past two games, which he attributes to his attitude about playing inside — it's his personal domain.

His teammates say that attitude — and Jackson's determination — has raised their level of play.

"If he's hot, my mind-set, and those of the guards, is to get him the ball and let him do his thing," said senior guard and team captain Tyler Schmidt. "We're going to feed off of that. It helps us play better."

Of his 54 rebounds in the past two games, 35 came off the offensive glass, including 23 against Maehara.

Jackson's play "helps out a lot, especially the younger kids. It gives them a chance to shoot, and they know that he's there if they miss, and they'll get a chance to do it again," Schmidt said.

Kubasaki coach Chris Sullivan is sufficiently impressed with Jackson's performance thus far, calling him "probably the most dominant inside player in the whole region."

"He's grown and developed so much in one year, from a good player to a dominant player on the floor. Last year, we knew he had good jumping ability, but this year, he has the strength," Sullivan said. "He has a nose for the ball on the offensive end, and that will get you 10 to 12 points."

But Jackson has aspects of his game to work on too, his coach said.

"He does so many things inside well," Bliss said. "He shoots, rebounds and follows shots so well. Nobody's found an answer for him inside. But we want to create situations where he shoots on the perimeter better. The only thing he has to work on is his shooting."

Jackson knows being 6-3 might make him a giant in the Pacific, but it also would make him among the shorter players on a stateside college team. Realizing his basketball future might hinge on outside shooting, he is practicing it more.

"But I don't get much chance to use it," he said. "I'm always working on the inside."

He says he's often thought of what he'd be like with a more well-rounded game — and where he'd like to take his game after graduation.

More immediately, Jackson and Schmidt said they believe Kadena has a legitimate shot to win its first Class AA title since 1999 and make its first center court appearance since 2001.

"We're better than we were last year," Schmidt said. "If we keep playing the way we have, I think we have a really good chance."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: orny@ststripes.osd.mil

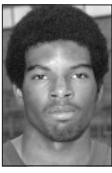
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Leonard Lynce

Basketball
Mile C. Kinrick High School
Japan

Last week: Averaged 19 points per game as the Red Devils improved to 7-0 with four road victories, one in the Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools and three in a Japan League weekend series at Sasebo Naval Base.

Lynce opened the week with 25 points in Kinrick's 71-49 triumph Tuesday over American School in Japan. He then scored 27 points in Kinrick's 81-51 win



sheet."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Friday over host E.J. King. The senior added 12 points each in the Red Devils' 79-31 and 75-40 victories Saturday over

Matthew C. Perry and E.J. King. The team captain "has done an excellent job of leading the team," coach Nathan Brewster said. "He has led by example in practice and in games. He has also improved his game since last year by playing outstanding defense, selecting good shots and including assists on his stat

Taisha Brown

Basketball
Taegu American High School
South Korea

Last week: Averaged 12 points and 16 rebounds per game as the Warriors won all three games they played and improved to 4-0 in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference campaign.

Brown, a freshman, began the week with eight points and 14 rebounds Wednesday as Taegu downed Pusman American 51-29. She followed that with 14 points and 16 rebounds in a 53-20



times."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

victory over Taegon Christian International on Friday. On Saturday, Taegu whipped Seoul Foreign 50-33 behind Brown's 14 points and 18 rebounds.

Cosch Michelle Chandler said she "had been waiting for many years for Taisha to hit the ninth grade, as I knew she would be a huge contributor ... Not only is she a talented athlete, she is an honor-roll student and a model citizen. She works hard, never complains and hustles at all

Talks stall after owners, players reject offers



No negotiations on tap as lockout hits its 90th day

BY ROB GILLIES

The Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL rejected last week's proposal by the players' association and then had its own counteroffer turned down Tuesday during a 3½-hour negotiating session.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said the offer made by the union last Thursday, which featured a 24-percent salary rollback, was a "big-time, significant and meaningful move" but was a short-term fix that wouldn't cure the league's financial troubles in the long run.

After consulting with the 30 team owners, Bettman said the offer that didn't contain cost certainty — a direct link between revenues and player costs — was rejected on the 90th day of the lockout.

"The rollback is, in and of itself, not a system and we have had a full decade as to

how the old system operates," Bettman said. "Our unanimous conclusion was that the union proposal does not work. It is fatally flawed as a system going forward."

Bettman said the NHL's counteroffer was then rejected.

"My hope is that the union leadership recognizes that the owners' resolve is great," Bettman said. "We only know of one approach to meaningfully fix our problems."

Bettman said no negotiating sessions have been scheduled.

That moves the NHL closer to becoming the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute. There might be a month left to salvage the season. The last NHL lockout ended with a deal on Jan. 11, 1995, allowing for a 48-game regular season.

"As I've said all along, it's about getting the right deal," Bettman said. "I would hope at some point it gets to where it's relevant, if not, we'll start up whenever we have a new deal."

"We haven't focused on what a semblance of a season would be. We're serious about fixing this the right way."

The union's proposal also contained a luxury tax, a revenue sharing plan, a lower cap on entry-level contracts and bonuses,

and an offer to allow teams to take players to arbitration.

But because it doesn't guarantee what each team will be required to pay its players, it didn't meet the solution the owners are seeking.

"You either know your costs or you don't," Bettman said.

The NHL hadn't given the players' association an offer since July 21, when it presented six possible scenarios to provide a framework for the league's first new collective bargaining agreement in a decade.

All six were rejected by the players on Aug. 17, and negotiations that followed over the next month failed to move the sides closer to resolving the philosophical difference of a salary cap.

Talks broke off Sept. 9 when owners turned down an offer, and the lockout was imposed a week later by Bettman. Players and owners stayed apart from early September until last Thursday.

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk reportedly told Bettman that the salary rollback offered by players wasn't enough to end the lockout.

"It's not a solution," Melnyk, who pulled the Senators out of bankruptcy, told The Ottawa Sun. "It's a one-shot deal that doesn't work."

Commissioner Gary Bettman said, "The union's 24-percent salary" rollback is, in and of itself, not a system and we have had a full decade as to how the old system operates. Our unanimous conclusion was that the union proposal does not work."

Wake edges Temple

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Trent Strickland scored all nine of his points in the final nine minutes and No. 6 Wake Forest went 5-for-6 from the free

throw line over the final two minutes to hold off Temple 67-64 on Monday night.

Eric Williams, who along with fellow starter Chris Paul was disciplined for 5 minutes for being late for the team bus on the way to the game, had 17 points for the Demon Deacons (7-1), while Justin Gray added 15.

Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, and Williams were held out of the starting lineup for being 7 minutes late for the bus. Paul finished with nine points and eight assists for the Demon Deacons, who were coming off a nine-day break for exams.

Mardy Collins had a season-high 25 points for Temple (3-5). Dustin Salisbury's three-point shot hit the rim with one second to play.

"Big Strickland is a winner. He stepped up big for us on both ends of the court. We have to give him a game ball," Paul said. "He gets the emotion going for us."

In Monday's other Top 25 game:

No. 20 Mississippi St. 74, New Orleans 59: In New Orleans, Shane Power scored 17 points and Mississippi State extended its road winning streak to 13 games.

Lawrence Roberts and Jamall Edmondson each scored 14 points, Ontario Harper added 11 and Winsome Frazier finished with 10 for the Bulldogs (8-2), who have won six of seven.

New Orleans' Bo McCalebb, who ranks 10th in the nation with a 22.5 point average, was limited to 16. New Orleans (3-4) had its two-game winning streak stopped.



Wake Forest's Vytas Danielius, center, struggles to find room under the basket Monday against Temple's Keith Butler, left, and Mark Tyndale.

Air Force defeated by Lamar in OT

The Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Texas — Teddy Davis' two free throws started an 8-0 overtime run that led Lamar to a 66-59 victory over Air Force on Monday.

Jason Grant hit two free throws with 42 seconds left in regulation to give Lamar a 50-47 lead. But Air Force's Nick Welch drove in for a layup, was fouled and completed the three-point play.

Welch scored a game-high 20 points. Antonio Hood added 13 points for Air Force (6-4).

Raymond Anthony led Lamar (4-2) with 15 points on five-of-10 shooting, including four three-pointers.

The Falcons' next game is at Iowa on Dec. 28.

BYU promotes assistant Mendenhall to head coach

The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Defensive coordinator Bronco Mendenhall was hired Monday as the football coach at Brigham Young.

Mendenhall replaces Gary Crowton, who stepped down two weeks ago after his third losing season.

"I'm ready to take this program to where it should be," Mendenhall said during a news conference.

Mendenhall and longtime BYU assistant Lance Reynolds, who has been interim coach since Crowton's resignation, were the in-house candidates to replace Crowton.

BYU also interviewed Utah defensive coordinator Kyle Whittingham, but he accepted an offer to take over for Urban Meyer at Utah. Meyer took the job at Florida.

N.C. State RB McLendon going pro

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State tailback T.A. McLendon, an injury-prone runner who never matched the promise he

NCAA briefs

showed as a freshman, will skip his senior season and enter the NFL Draft.

He had 35 touchdowns for N.C. State, third-best in school history.

After being picked ACC rookie of the year with 1,101 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns, he missed four games as a sophomore, then struggled with shoulder and hamstring ailments this season.

Oregon State aide hired as Army's AD

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Former Oregon State associate athletic director Kevin Anderson is the new athletic director at Army and the first black to hold the post at the academy.

Anderson served as executive associate athletic director for external affairs at Oregon. He replaces Rick Greenspan, who left the academy in September for a similar post at Indiana University.

"I love the tradition and I love what the

academy is all about — the mission of developing leaders who are not only going to lead on the field, but also lead this country after they graduate," Anderson said.

Anderson will start in January.

Glaville interested in NMSU job

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Jerry Glaville says he is interested in becoming head football coach at New Mexico State University.

The head coach of the Houston Oilers from 1985 to 1989 and the Atlanta Falcons from 1990 to 1993, said via telephone from his home in Cumming, Ga., that his first goal would be "not to be on anybody's schedule as homecoming opponent."

Brian Faison, NMSU athletic director, declined comment on the viability of Glaville as a job candidate.

NCAA grants medical hardship waiver for Oklahoma DT Dvoracek

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma's Dusty Dvoracek has been granted a medical hard-

ship waiver by the NCAA, which will allow the defensive tackle who was kicked off the team in September to play a fifth season with the Sooners.

Dvoracek, a third-team All-American last season, was dismissed after he was involved in a bar fight in Norman.

Woman drops sexual assault lawsuit against Univ. of Colorado

DENVER — A former University of Colorado soccer player dropped her federal lawsuit Monday, one of three at the heart of the sex-and-recruiting scandal surrounding the university's football team.

The lawsuit, filed in January, alleged the athletic department retaliated against the woman after she talked to police about a football recruiting party where two other women said they were raped. She also claimed the department ignored her complaints of racial discrimination by her coach and teammates.

Huskies make history with two high-profile black head coaches

Willingham joins basketball coach Romar at Washington

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tyrone Willingham and Lorenzo Romar are recognized as accomplished college coaches, the biggest reason Washington administrators are glad to have them working the sidelines.

The fact that both men are black and supervising the school's two most visible athletic programs is "a little bit extra," in the words of university president Mark Emmert.

It's also historic. Willingham was introduced Monday as Washington's new football coach, two weeks after being fired at Notre Dame. Romar is in his third season as coach of the men's basketball team.

Washington is the first school from a Bowl Championship Series conference to have two black men overseeing the two major sports since Temple of the Big East had Ron Dickerson as its football coach with longtime basketball coach John Chaney from 1993-97.

"We're delighted to have in Lorenzo Romar and Tyrone Willingham two first-rate coaches who are wonderful people of great character," Emmert said.

Willingham's hiring is newsworthy for another reason. He's the first black head coach to be hired by one high-profile football



The University of Washington chose former Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham, above, as its new head football coach on Monday. It is a return to the Pac-10 for Willingham, who previously coached at Stanford.

program and then quickly replace at another.

"That is honestly significant," Willingham said. "With the old landscape, there have been limited opportunities for one to truly be able to get back into the system. I think that's a very positive step."

Romar, hired by former athletic director Barbara Hedges, leads a basketball team that reached the NCAA tournament last spring. The basketball Huskies, No. 18 in this week's poll, are expected to contend for this season's Pac-10 title.

Both Willingham and Romar said their positions at Washington represent progress for blacks, but insisted that job qualifications should always mean more than skin color.

"I'm excited as an alum and a

current employee of the University of Washington that our university is making progress and not using color as the No. 1 factor on whether they're going to hire someone," Romar said. "It's about who is the best qualified. Who is the best fit?"

"This may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football," Romar said. "You can't make it a political hire."

Said Willingham: "I am proud to be African American, but we should get to the point where that's not the focus, where it's really the body of work that a man does. I'm looking forward to increasing my body of work."

Emmert and athletic director Todd Turner, who both are white, said race wasn't a factor in Willingham's hire.

They simply wanted the best coach, and Willingham's name topped their list when Keith Gilbertson stepped down after a 1-10 season.

Emmert said the university would have used the same approach in hiring a college dean. "This is the man we wanted as our coach," Emmert said.

Willingham's firing at Notre Dame, after the third year of a five-year contract, raised questions about whether he was given enough time to succeed and drew criticism from the Black Coaches Association.

Willingham was one of only five black head coaches in Division I-A last season. That number dropped to two after Tony Samuel was fired at New Mexico State, Fitz Hill resigned at San Jose State and Willingham was let go.

"Tyrone Willingham is an outstanding individual, in terms of the way he carries himself both in public and behind closed doors," BCA President Stan Wilcox said. "You couldn't find a better gentleman of character and respect within the football coaching community. He is going to do great things for Washington."



U.S. skier Bode Miller, above, won a men's World Cup slalom on Monday night at Sestriere, Italy, and joined Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season.

U.S. skier Miller runs into record book again

American becomes second man to win races in all four alpine disciplines in same season

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy — The lights were on. The Olympic course was glistering.

The setting was perfect for Bode Miller to put his name in the record book once more.

The World Cup leader won a night slalom Monday to join Marc Girardelli as the only male skiers to win races in all four alpine disciplines in one season.

"I don't feel any different than before," Miller said. "These are the kinds of things you tell your kids about."

Earlier this season, Miller won super-G and downhill races for the first time. He won a giant slalom Sunday at Val d'Isere, France.

"At this point, I just really enjoy what I'm doing. I think being compared to some of the guys they're comparing me to is a unique opportunity," Miller said. "If you're happy with what you're doing, records don't mean as much. I think it's just fun to ski four events."

Miller covered the course for the 2006 Turin Olympics in a two-run time of 1 minute, 39.03 seconds for his sixth victory in 10 races this season. That increased his lead on Austrian rival Hermann Maier in the overall standings to 391 points.

Miller's ultimate goal is to become the first American man to win the overall title since Phil Mahre in 1983.

Silvan Zurbriggen of Switzerland was second, a distant 1.27 seconds behind, for the first World Cup podium finish of his career. Kalle Palander of Finland was third, 1.41 seconds back.

Girardelli became the first man to win slalom, giant slalom, super-G and downhill races in the same season in 1988-1989, over a two-month span. Miller compiled his victories in only 16 days.

Girardelli still has the edge on Miller, however. He also won a combined — a paper event based on the results of a slalom and downhill — that season. Miller will have a chance to match him in the first combined event this season in November, Switzerland, on Jan. 14.

“This [Willingham hire] may be the most important hire in the history of Husky football.”

Lorenzo Romar
Washington men's basketball coach

NFL Challenge

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Top Scores for Week 14

266	Chipboudy	2430	SteelFrogWood	MAG-12
266	kiko25	2422	giants#1	hfc 2/37 ar
264	MYCHASPG&M	2418	Bone-Daddy	HQ, USAREUR, G2
264	MikeV_01	2414	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
264	Eddie the Q	2398	Who Cares	MNF-I DCSPER
260	BigFrankfromTexas	2394	Joe Corleone	Misawa
260	MPSniper	2390	Jaguar One	DoDds
260	cowboyfan74	2384	SPFLMEISTER 04	Hohenfels
260	Stu	2384	Rambli	RAF Lakenheath
260	jeremy	2378	BengalsAltheWay	ECJ2-JAC-DSTE

Best Overall Scores

See website for official games rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Martinez picks Mets over Red Sox

New York working to finalize contract after enticing star with four-year deal

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez confirmed Tuesday that he has agreed to join the New York Mets.

"I only hope to honor my contract and to fulfill the expectations," Martinez said on television in the Dominican Republic. "We got what we wanted. The team and I are happy with everything."

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, told the Mets on Monday that he would attempt to work out a deal with them after New York guaranteed a four-year, a person involved in the talks said on condition of anonymity.

The deal for the pitcher who helped Boston win the World Series will be worth more than \$50 million.

"The bigger the contract, the bigger the responsibility," Martinez said.

Martinez said the sides still must determine the distribution of the money, and that he needs to pass a physical.

New York has not announced the deal, choosing to wait until an agreement is signed and the physical is passed.

Martinez had spent the past seven seasons with the Red Sox.

"My heart will always be with the Boston fans. I hope that everyone who truly loves me will still support me now that I won't be with the Red Sox," the three-time Cy Young winner said.

For once, the Mets and new general manager Omar Minaya snatched the spotlight from the star-studded Yankees across town by making the biggest splash baseball's winter meetings, which ended Monday with many top players still searching for teams.

There were just five trades and seven free-agent signings finalized during the four-day session, but several clubs struck preliminary agreements with free agents that will be completed later this week.

Four agreements were finalized Tuesday: third baseman Corey Koskie and Minnesota (\$17 million for three years); left-hander David Wells and Boston (\$8 million for two years); second baseman Jose Hernandez and Cleveland (\$1.8 million for one year); and pitcher Royce Clayton and Arizona (about \$13 million for one year).

Richie Sexson and Seattle appeared to be working their way toward a deal, but the first baseman's agent, Casey Close, said Baltimore



Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez, left, and slugger Manny Ramirez smile during a game last season against the New York Yankees. Martinez is close to signing a four-year deal with the Mets.

was still in the hunt.

"Nothing is conclusive at this moment. We'll have to see where this thing goes the next 24, 48 hours," Close said. "It's all speculative as to what people's perspectives are."

The agent for Carlos Delgado, another first baseman, held preliminary talks with the Yankees and was speaking to the Mariners, who told an agent they might try to sign both Sexson and Delgado.

The White Sox traded slugger Carlos Lee to Milwaukee for speedy outfielder Scott Podsednik, reliever Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named. Four free-agent agreements also were announced, topped by catcher Mike Matheny's \$10.5 million, three-year deal with San Francisco.

Right-hander Esteban Yan agreed to a \$2.25 million, two-year contract with Anaheim, right-hander Todd Jones finalized a \$1.1 million, one-year deal with Florida and outfielder Wil Cordero got a \$600,000, one-year contract from the Washington-bound Expos, who also agreed to a minor league deal with outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds.

As teams headed home, many top free agents remained on the market, including Carlos Beltran, Adrian Beltré, Magglio Ordonez, Derek Lowe, Eric Milton, Jason Vartek, Orlando Cabrera, J.D. Drew, Edgar Renteria and Moises Alou.

Among the deals awaiting completion were Carl Pavano's four-year contract with the Yankees, a deal worth about \$39 million. Minaya expressed confidence about the negotiations with Martinez, but wouldn't detail the discussions.

"The good news is that we're still in dia-

logue," Minaya said.

"Every day that goes by and we are having dialogue is a good day."

Minaya then returned to New York, and the sides will work by telephone to finalize the contract language. Cuza did not want to comment on the talks.

Martinez helped pitch Boston to its first World Series title since 1918, but Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein said he refused to increase the team's offer in the past two days.

"We wish Pedro nothing but the best going forward both on the field and off the field," Boston owner John Henry said in an e-mail. "He pitched with every ounce of his being for the Red Sox over the course of 216 games. ... He has earned everything that he has accomplished, including his World Series ring and his reputation as one of the greatest who ever lived."

Martinez, 33, would join a rotation that includes two-time Cy Young winner Tom Glavine, Kris Benson, Steve Trachsel and Victor Zambrano. The Mets lost starter Al Leiter to Florida.

Boston's final proposal was a \$40.5 million, three-year deal that contained a club option for 2008, a baseball official said, also on condition of anonymity. The Red Sox thought the Mets' offer was for \$56 million over four years, the official said, but a Mets official said that figure was not correct.

An agent who spoke with the Mets said New York's proposal was worth about \$52 million.

Martinez's departure leaves the Red Sox to defend their title with a rotation that currently includes Curt Schilling, Wells, Tim Lincecum and Bronson Arroyo. Schilling said Tuesday his injured foot will not be ready for him to pitch by Opening Day.

Angels sign righty Byrd, trade Ortiz to Reds

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels agreed to a \$4.5 million, one-year contract with right-hander Paul Byrd on Tuesday, and traded pitcher Ramon Ortiz to the Cincinnati Reds for a minor league pitcher.

Byrd, 34, was 8-7 with a 3.94 ERA in 19 starts for the Atlanta Braves last season. He began the season on the 60-day disabled list recovering from reconstructive elbow surgery and was activated June 19.

Byrd has a 60-53 big league record with a 4.33 ERA in 215 games, including 127 starts. He also has pitched for the New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies and Kansas City Royals.

Ortiz, a 31-year-old right-hander, figures to be a member of the Reds' starting rotation. He was 5-7 with a 4.43 ERA in 34 games — 14 of them starts — for the Angels last season.

Before last year, he had made all 123 of his big league appearances as a starting pitcher. He won at least 13 games each of the previous three years and was 15-9 with a 3.77 ERA in 2002, helping the Angels win the World Series. He has a career record of 59-49 in 157 games.

The Angels received minor-league right-hander Dustin Mosley from the Reds.

Winter meetings deals

By The Associated Press

1. Pittsburgh traded Luis Lirio to the Cleveland for Of Matt Lawton.
2. Milwaukee traded RHP Matt Kalb to Atlanta for RHP Jose Capellan and RHP Alex Zureick.
3. Toronto traded C Kevin Cash to Tampa Bay for RHP Chad Gaudin.
4. Chicago traded Of Scott Podsednik to Milwaukee for Of Scott Podsednik, RHP Luis Vizcaino and a player to be named.
5. Tampa Bay traded RHP Ramon Ortiz to Arizona for Cash.

Major league free agents who signed

1. Arizona signed RHP Russ Ortiz to a \$3.3 million, one-year contract.
2. Anaheim signed Of Steve Finley to a \$5.1 million, one-year contract.
3. Texas signed Of Rich Hidalgo to a \$5 million, one-year contract.
4. Florida signed RHP Todd Jones to a \$5.1 million, one-year contract.
5. Anaheim signed RHP Esteban Yan to a \$2.25 million, one-year contract.
6. Washington signed Of Wil Cordero to a \$600,000, one-year contract.
7. San Francisco signed C Mike Matheny to a \$10.5 million, three-year contract.

Union files grievance over Neagle

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The players' association filed a grievance Tuesday in an effort to overturn the Colorado Rockies' termination of Penny Neagle's contract.

Neagle is owed \$19 million under the \$51 million, five-year deal agreed to in December 2000. Colorado terminated the agreement Dec. 6, three days after the oft-injured pitcher was cited for solicitation. Police said a woman in his car told him he had paid her \$40 for oral sex.

Colorado cited section 7 (b) (1) of the Uniform Player Con-

tract, which states the team can terminate the contract if a player shall "fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship or to keep himself in first-class physical condition."

Neagle was issued a court for summons for Jan. 27. The 36-year-old left-hander was due to make \$10 million in 2005 and a \$9 million buyout of a \$12.5 million team option for 2006.

He last pitched on July 20, 2003, and in the past 14 months has had an elbow ligament and shoulder surgery.

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SPORTS

Sixth-ranked Wake Forest
manages to squeak past
stubborn Temple, Page 35The sign
of points
to comeChiefs rally to top Titans
in wild, offensive showBY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For two also-rans, the Chiefs and Titans sure know how to put on a show. A long, wild, controversial show.

The Monday night showcase featured 925 yards of offense, a season-high receiving performance, a highly debatable penalty, a bunch of comebacks — and, finally, a smile on the face of Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil after a 49-38 victory.

"I'm sure it was entertaining," said Vermeil, who scowled at his porous defense most of the night. "Some people may have turned their sets off early. I noticed that a lot of people left the game, the stands had empty seats."

"Pro football is pro football. Two teams, we were both in the playoffs last year and for one reason or another neither team is in the playoffs this year. But that doesn't mean we aren't good football teams or can't play exciting football."

Or controversial. Kansas City (5-8), which won 13 games last season, was helped greatly by a phantom penalty, then got the winning points on a 9-yard touchdown catch by Eddie Kennison with 32 seconds left.

Trent Green capped a 64-yard drive in just over a minute with his third touchdown pass.

One play earlier, referee Tom White called a personal foul on rookie Travis LaBoy for a hit to Green's helmet. But LaBoy clearly hit Green on the shoulder.

"I am disappointed in the performance of Tom White and the job he did officiating that game," said coach Jeff Fisher, who as co-chairman of the NFL competition committee rarely criticizes officials. "You've got to let players play."

One player who played his best was Titans receiver Drew Bennett, a former college quarterback. He had 233 yards receiving, a career high and the most in the league this season. Bennett caught three touchdown passes from Billy Volek, who threw for a career-high 426 yards in replacing the injured Steve McNair — one of nine Titans starters not on hand; three more left during the game.

But it wasn't enough for undermanned Tennessee (4-9), which gained 542 yards and lost on a night that even featured a snow shower in Music City.

SEE POINTS ON PAGE 39



Chiefs wide receiver Johnnie Morton celebrates his touchdown catch in the second quarter at the expense of Titans safety Scott McGarrath. Kansas City surrendered 542 yards on Monday but won 49-38. AP

**Embattled
Plummer
faces
NFL discipline
after obscene
gesture
to fans
in Denver**

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**League-leading Suns
rout Magic** Page 37



**Three-time
Cy Young
winner
Martinez
rejects offer
from Red Sox
and decides to
join the Mets**

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Talks reach another stalemate in NHL lockout Page 35

